

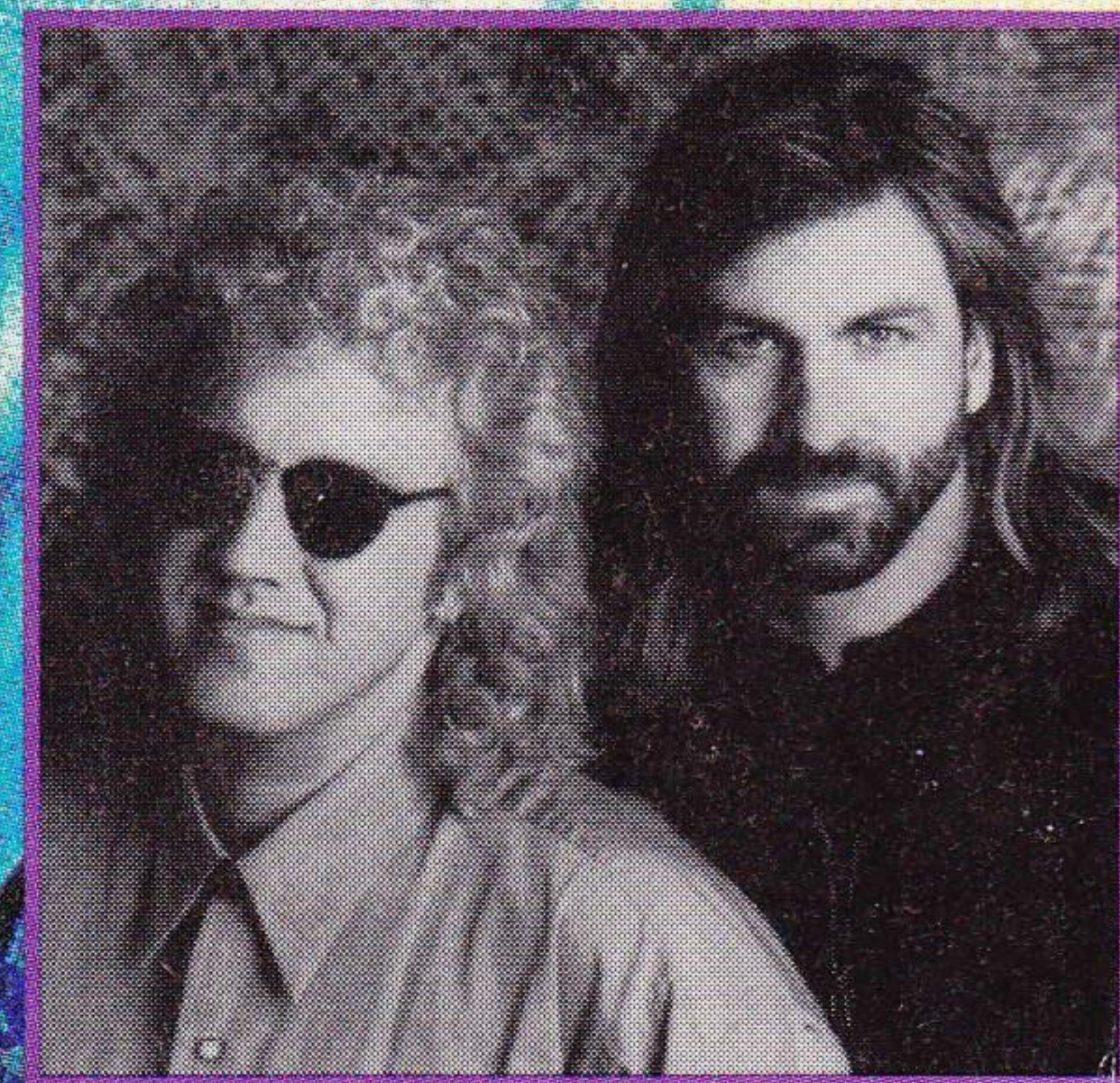
NOV/DEC '94
ISSUE #50
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HEAVENS

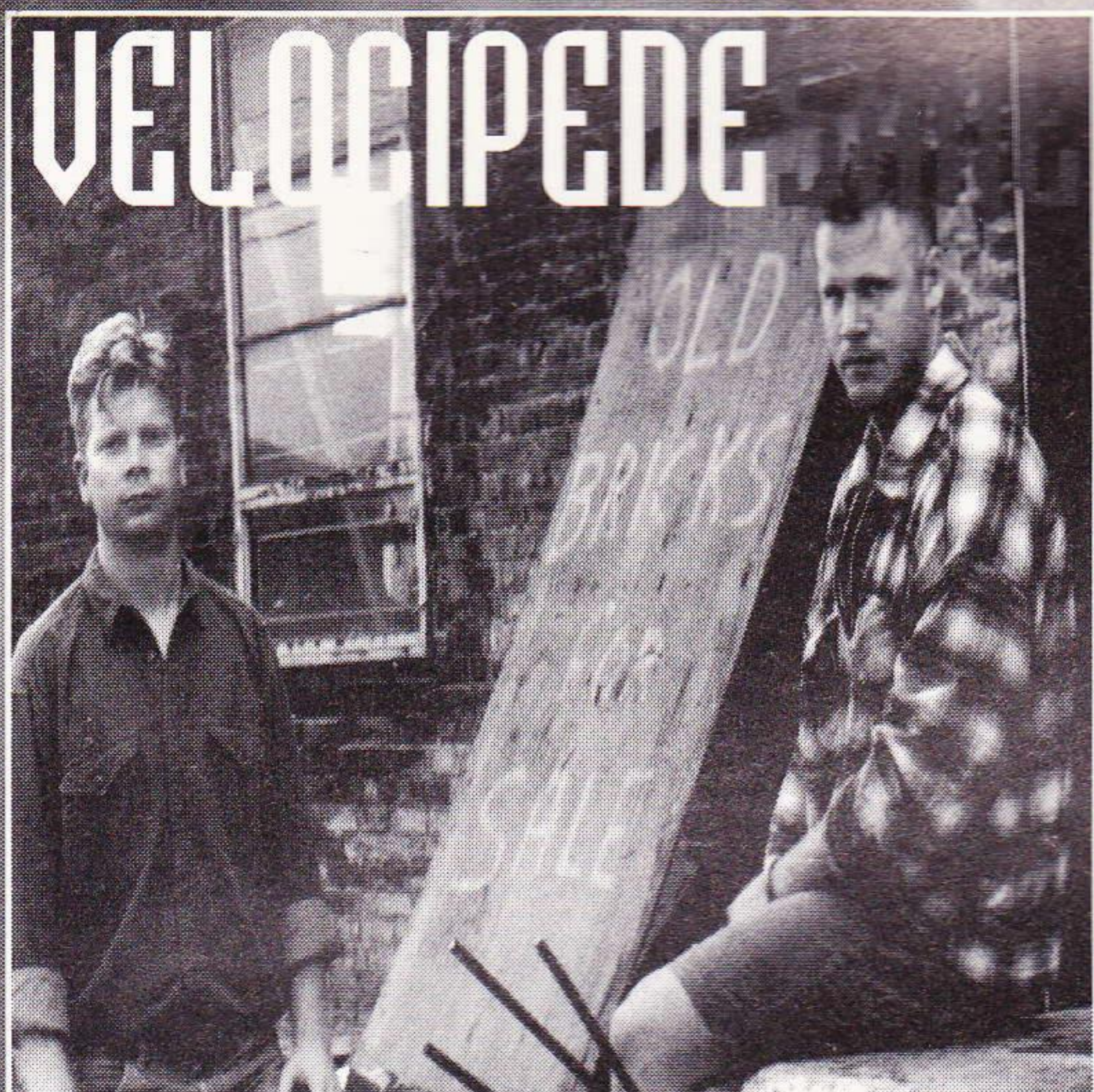
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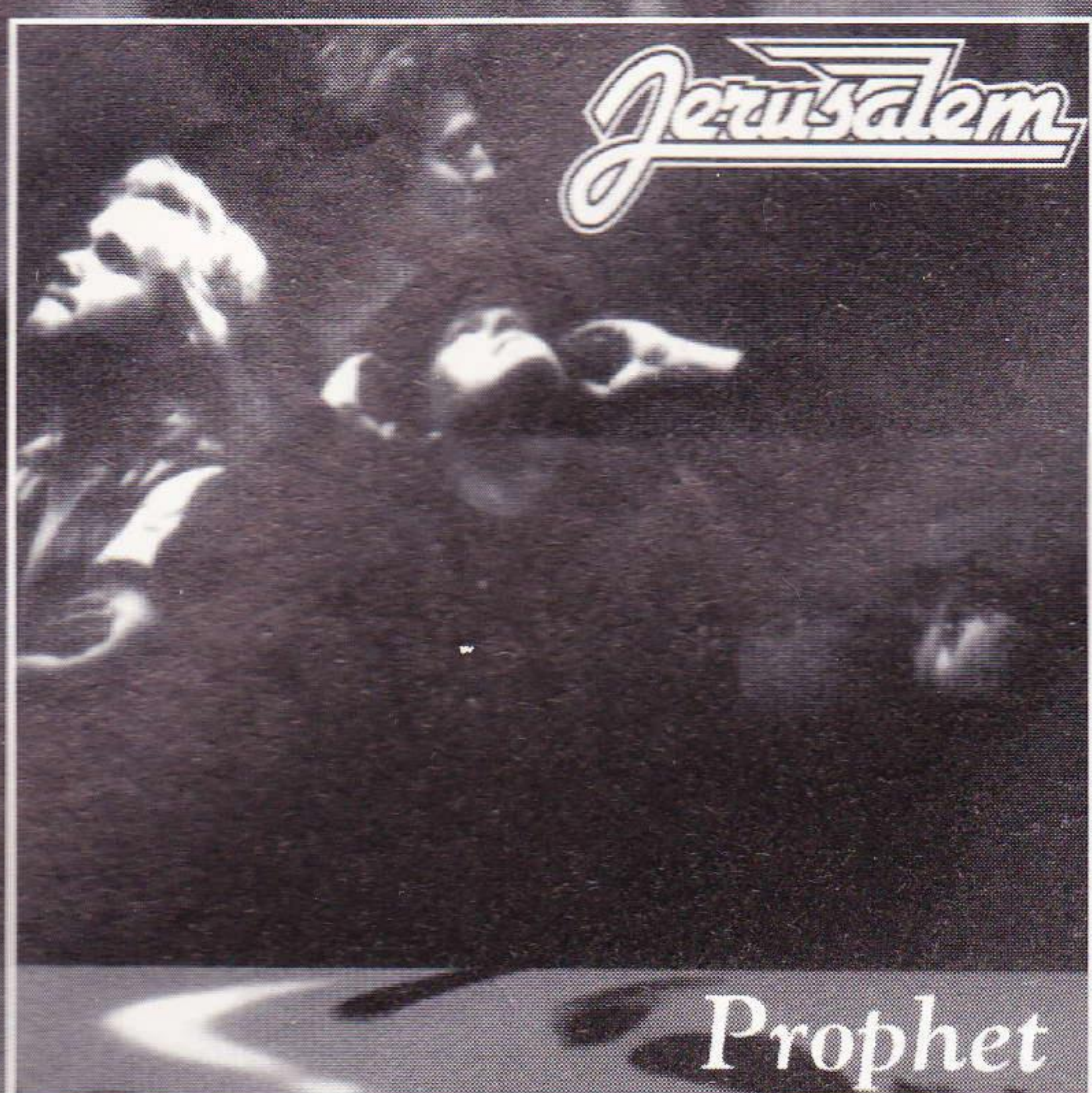
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November/December '94

Issue #50

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23 VENI DOMINE Remember this killer gothic/power metal band from Sweden? They're back with a new album, as fellow Swede Staffan Gustafsson discovers in this overseas interview.

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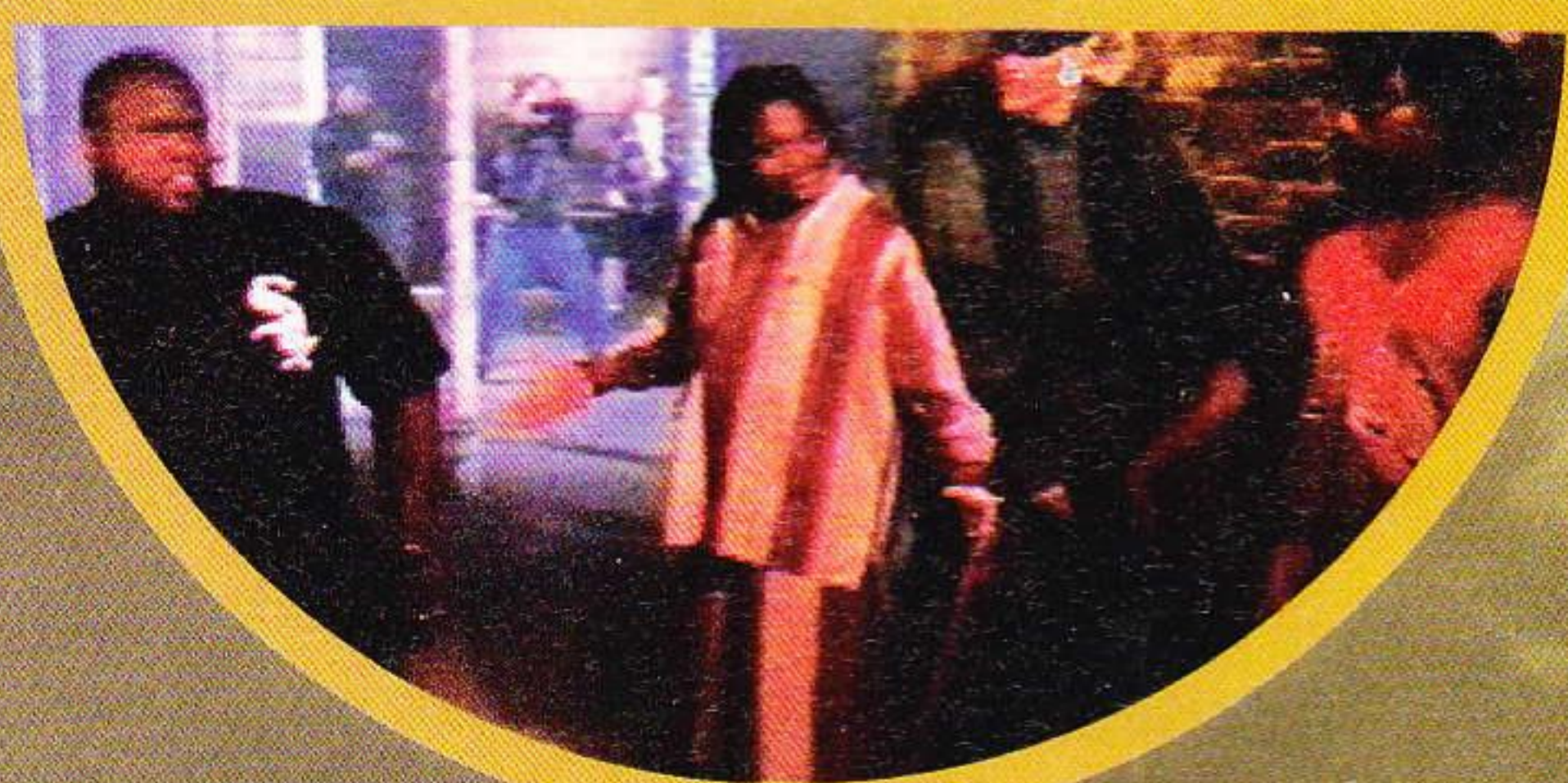


Blues!

GLENN KAISER "Ain't Much Difference" (from the album Spontaneous Combustion)

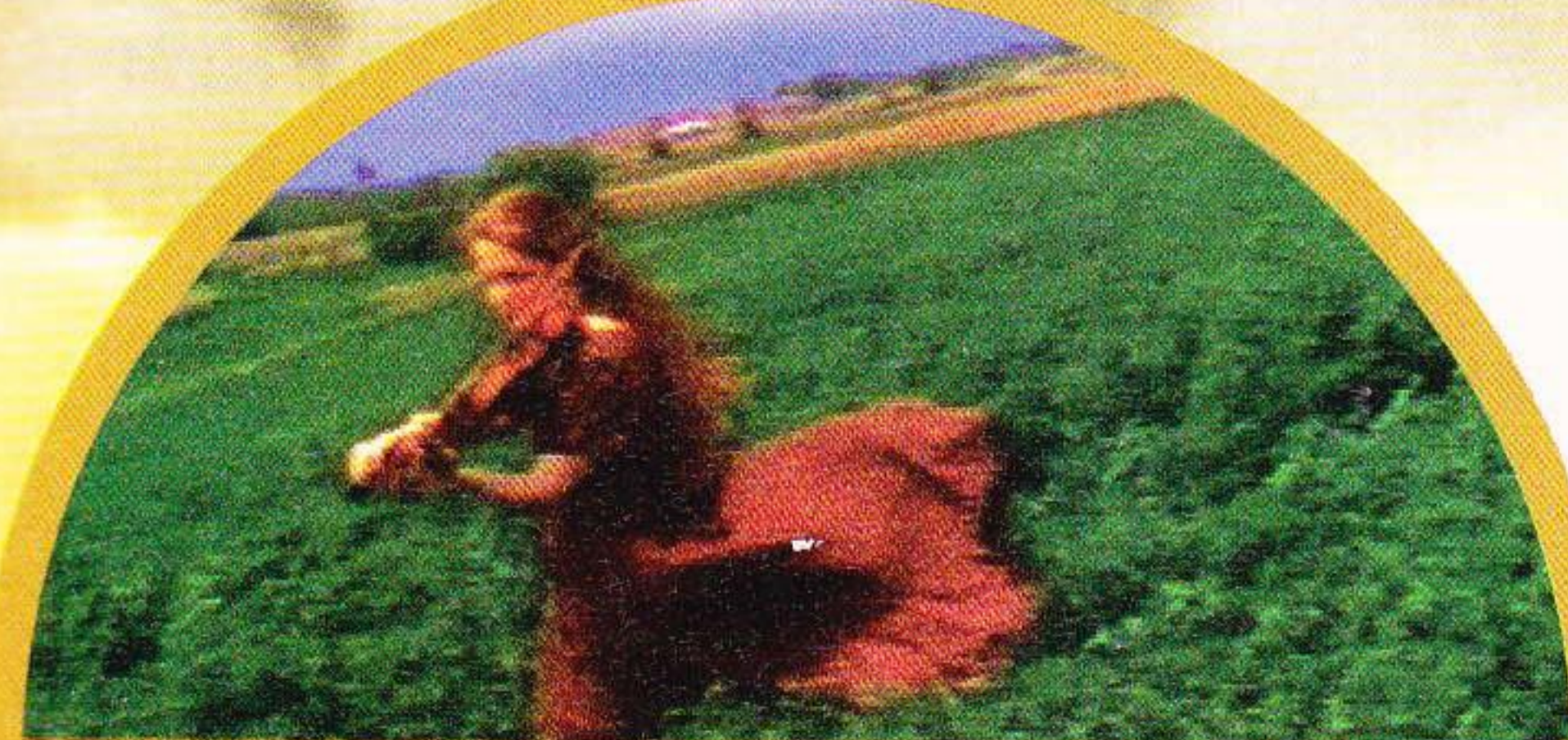
Rap!

CAUZIN' EFEKT "Break Out Da Frame" (from the album Famlee Affair)



Celtic Folk!

THE CROSSING "Ecstasy" (from the album Dancing at the Crossroads)



Praise and Worship!

GLENN KAISER "Most of All" (from the album All My Days: Songs of Worship and Witness)



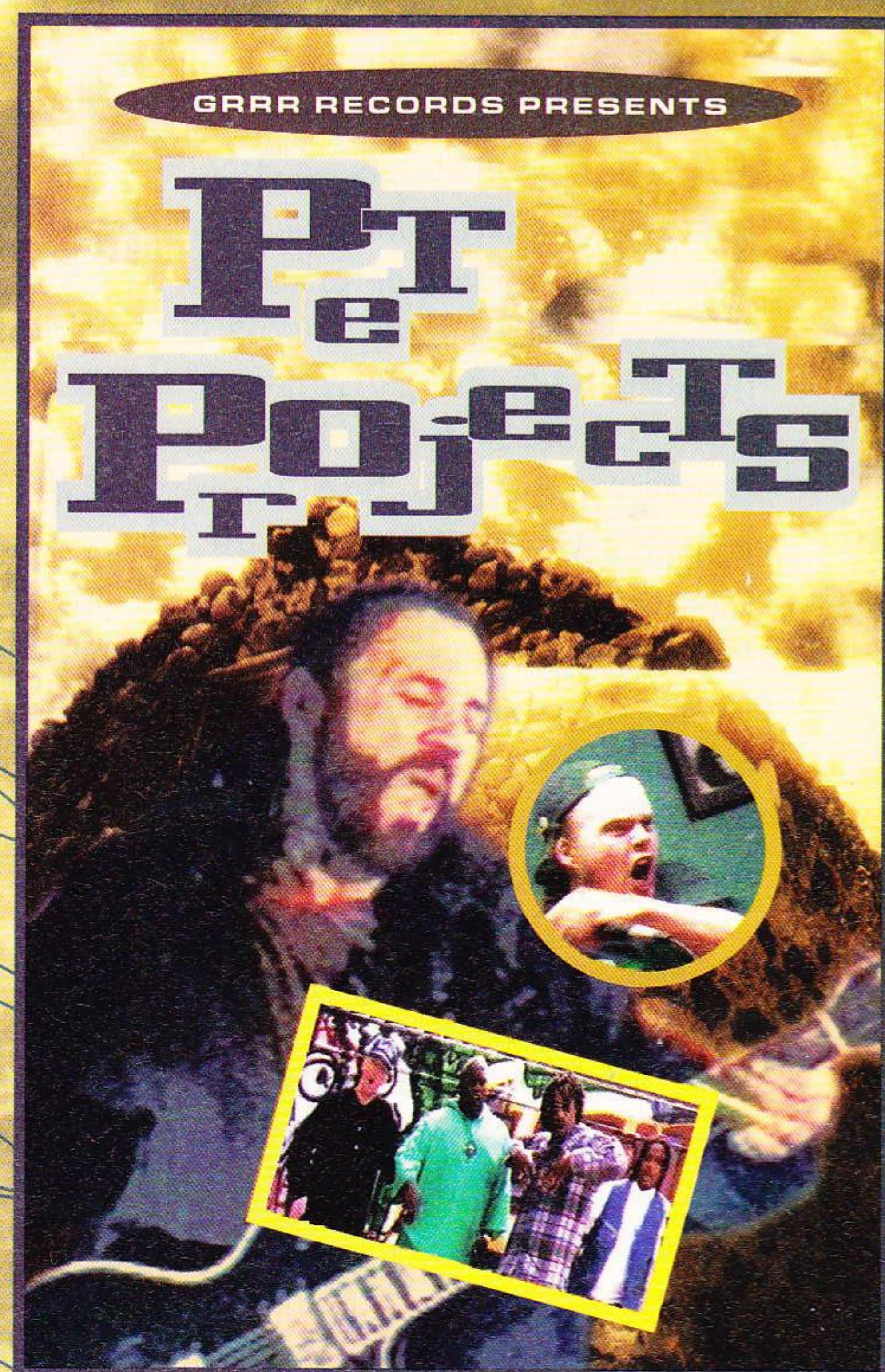
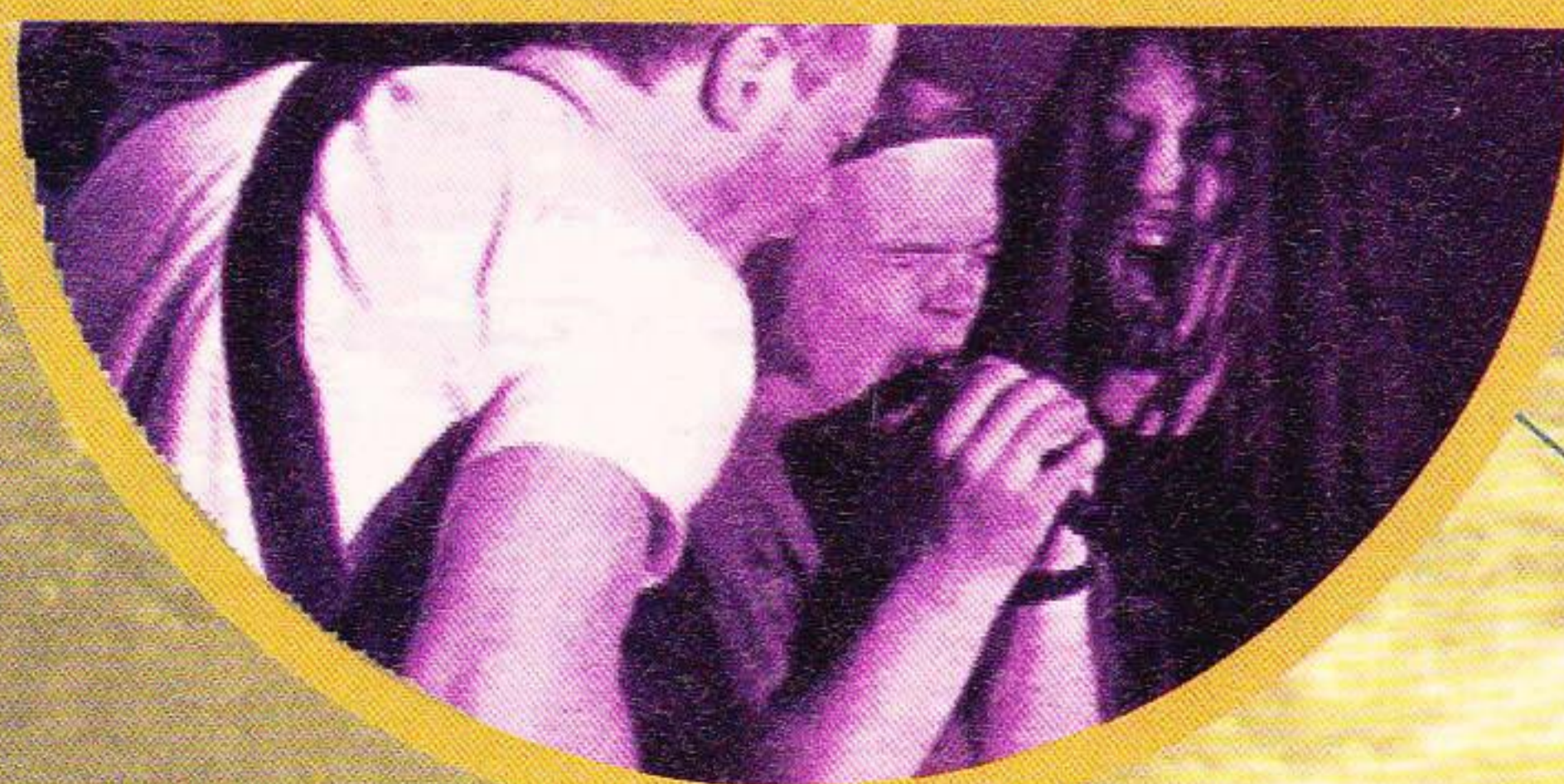
Rock!

REZ Band "Land of Stolen Breath" (from the album Reach of Love)



PUNK!

CRASHDOG "Voice of Defiance" (from the album Mud Angels)



Produced & directed by Mike Hertenstein
Executive producer: Tom Cameron

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Scripture

"In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace that He lavished on us with all wisdom and understanding."
(Ephesians 1:7-8)

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RADIO, RADIO

I wrote to say I love your magazine. The "What So & So Sez" column is a great idea. Ever had a band come to know the Lord thru that column? I also appreciate the album reviews. I bought Bride's *Scarecrow Messiah* based on the review. I love it!

There are a couple of complaints I have. I don't like how some articles blend in with the backgrounds they are against, and are a pain to read (ie. "A Look At Hardcore" HM #49). Also, I'm always amused with "Young Geezers." Do more of that. I have one more thing to ask. I always notice the "Way Loud" radio charts. What stations play that music? The only Christian music stations we get are WRZR (Columbus) and Zmusic. The loudest music I've heard on WRZR is Michael W. Smith, and on Zmusic, Whitecross.

--Kenny Drobnack

Coshocton, Ohio

(Ed -- Thanks for the encouragement!

There are about 100 stations across the U.S. that have at least a one hour Christian rock show. WCVO in New Albany has a show, as does WZLE & WRDZ in Cleveland, WXTQ & WLHO in Athens, WYSZ in Maumee, WHLO in Barberton, WNLT in Fairfield, and WTRJ in Troy. I don't know of any bands coming to the Lord as a result of the "So & So Sez" column at this point.)

LETTER FROM A BRIDE

Since the release of our new record, *Scarecrow Messiah*, the Bride line has buzzed off the hook and thousands of letters have poured into the home office with people asking, "When is Bride coming to our area?" Bride, like many other rock bands, will travel most anywhere to spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ. There are two problems, however, that we face. To those fans who think Bride has been avoiding your part of the country for the last 8 years... well, we are not. We need promoters to promote the shows. It seems like that there are less and less promoters working actively each year.

The second problem is fan support. From the amount of calls and letters we receive, it would lead one to believe that Bride could play anywhere in the U.S. and pack out the concert halls. That has not been the case either this year. That is why I have written this letter for publication. If the fans stop coming to the shows, the promoters who take on the financial responsibilities will lose money and will be unable to afford to put on future shows.

Bride would tour 365 days a year if there were promoters and fan support to this. However, by the end of this year, we will have only played about 50 shows. I would like to encourage fans of Christian rock music to support all of the bands who sing and preach from their heart about the saving grace of our Lord Jesus Christ.

--Dale Thompson

West Point, Kentucky

REAL CONVERSION

About six months ago, I bought the compilation *5 Years of Nuclear Blast* to hear the song "Butchered Mutilation" by Mortification. While listening to the CD, I stumbled upon the song "Embalmed Existence" by the satanic band Resurrection. I was so disgusted by some of the lyrics I was hearing that I decided to write a letter to the band and tell them just what I thought of their music. I sent the letter, never expecting to hear from them again. Imagine my surprise when I received a letter from one of the band members. While opening the envelope, I was expecting to read an ultra-satanic letter. It humbled me when I received this (please read the letter). I just had to share this good news with you. God is truly in control. Thank you for taking the time to read this.

--Mike Finnity

Macedon, New York

Mike,

Hello, this is John Asic from the band Resurrection. You probably thought you would get some ultra-satanic hate letter back, but that is not the case. Let me explain. First of all, Resurrection broke up early this year. We had some troubles and all of us were going our separate ways; musically and spiritually. It's a long story, but we basically split up. Since then, I have found the goodness of the Lord. I have totally turned my life around from a dope smoking, evil, lying, God-denying sinner to a devoted, God-loving Christian.

I now play acoustic guitar in a folkish Christian outfit. Me and two of my best God-fearing buddies are calling this project "Good Friday." Bert plays acoustic bass and sings, and Akmal plays percussion. He is Egyptian and has all kinds of percussion instruments. I also play in a metal band with some guys from church. It's only on the side, but the acoustic thing is my main goal. I can spread the Word of God much easier through my acoustic.

The Resurrection album was recorded in November 1992 and, since then, I have changed. Many things have happened to me to help me see God

now. The first thing was my father being convicted of child related rape and sent to the Florida State Penitentiary. That was the major factor that persuaded me to God's light. Your letter was the only bad letter I got, and only now do I see the damage that I have caused through that evil, satanic (bleep).

I have confessed all my past sins and can only hope that Jesus can forgive me. Mike, I ask you to forgive me. I am going to let everybody know what has happened to me one by one. I know that some people will look at me or think that I am some sort of extremist, but I don't care. God is here for me now and, now that I know this, nothing can stop me from spreading the Word of God.

I am also attending Christian church group missions, learning how to some day be able to be a minister. I know that I am probably not worthy of such a title, but Jesus gives me the strength to overcome.

I have to go now. It was nice hearing from you. Good to see that there are still people like you left who are not scared to speak their beliefs. Write back soon friend.

--John Asic

FLEMING AND WHO?

I am a subscriber to your magazine, and love it very much. I would like to encourage everyone down there -- no matter what any human says.

Now, down to business: I recently bought a copy of the *Steve Taylor Tribute Album*, and I never thought that an artist would be allowed such a wonderful tribute while they are still living. My favorite song on the album is by Fleming and John. I love their sound. They do not have an album out and I was wondering if they are signed and where I could get their demo? I am always looking for new styles of music, especially in the Christian music category, and when I heard that song I just wanted to cry. I am desperate for information, please help me.

--Tim Litchfield

Corolla, North Carolina

(Ed -- A lot of other people like this "modern female alternative meets Led Zeppe-

lin" group called Fleming & John. In fact, they were courted by many major labels, including Epic, REA, Geffen, etc., but wanted to sign with an indy. So, they signed to R.E.X., who will release their debut album, *Delusions of Grandeur*, into the mainstream only in February.)

COMPLAIN--SOMUCHEASIER

In all the years I've subscribed, I have never written in with a comment, and I can't take it anymore. Let me explain the situation... I come home from a hard day's work, it's Friday afternoon, and as I'm coming up the walk, I notice the new HM sticking out of the mailbox. "Yes, a break from daily existence is about to begin!" I go take a shower, get out, pop in the new Bride CD and pick up your mag, and AGAIN someone is slammin' my favorite part of your magazine! I can't believe all of the negative criticism you get for the "What So & So Sez" article. I usually read it first, because it is the only time you will read the totally unrehearsed, unexpected, response of a secular artist when asked, "Who is Jesus Christ to you?" And I'm interested in that response.

The Christian articles are great, but I know all about those bands; I've followed them for years. But I know nothing personal about any of today's secular artists' point of view -- no matter how lame it may be. On the flip side, just because you're not a Christian does not mean everything you say is worth nothing. I care about their lives and views and love catching a glimpse of what happens when they are presented with a new one. Aren't we supposed to? (I feel a tax gatherers and prostitute speech coming on) If you people could just take off the blinders for a second (try it with me, that's it). Can you imagine the full frontal impact that must have on those artists? They will never forget that impact (or that interview). Remember, you were a non-Christian once. Do you remember when someone asked you those very same questions? I do. It sure left me with something deserving further consideration.

People, let's stop all the pointless

bickering. I expect it at work, but in Heaven's Metal I really would like to escape it. Think a situation all the way through before you become mortified by what is on the surface. Maybe we'll spend less time attacking one another, and those who have done nothing wrong can spend less time defending themselves. I apologize, because now I have written a negative letter, but it bummed me out when I felt like the very thing I wanted to get away from was staring back at me in the pages. Anyway, in defense of "So & So," keep up the great witness, and thanks for sharing it with me. Try to pin Pantera down sometime.

--Mark Simonpietri

Manassas, Virginia

GUITARHELP

First, I'd like to thank you for publishing such a great magazine. I used to read Metal Edge, Metal Maniacs, Circus, Rip, and a lot of other secular metal mags before I became a Christian. I was delighted to find that there was a Christian metal mag that I could spend my money on and support. I have a problem, though. There's something missing. I'm an amateur guitar player who is just learning all the in's and out's of playing. I've found it's easier to learn songs by using tablature rather than learning notes. You can play a lot faster by using tab. Heaven's Metal is missing this. The only way I can practice is to buy the secular mags and learn to play the secular stuff. Christian musicians need to be able to learn Christian songs by great bands like Guardian, Killed By Cain, Deliverance, Tourniquet, Mortification, etc.

--Chris Holmes

Palm Bay, Florida

(Ed--Many, many guitarists have written in with similar feelings, Chris, and now there is an answer! Star Song has released the "Extremely Loud Guitar Book," with 21 songs. Check it out. It should keep ya busy for a while. And, thanks to Star Song, we're giving away 15 copies -- complete with the companion CD -- in a random drawing from the first 100 people to respond to this year's Reader's Poll.)

HM

YOUNG GEEZERS



Jeff Swenson

PRECIOUS

Hailing from Southern California, Precious Death quickly grew to be one of Christian metal's more popular new outfits -- with impromptu performances at Cornerstone Festival and releasing their own CD, *Southpaw*. Mixing a hybrid of funk, rock and power metal, vocalist Chris Scott, guitarist David Bishop, bassist Andy Koehler, and drummer Roger Sampson continue to challenge listeners with a refreshing, creative sound. Their second effort, *If You Must*, offers more of a refined and focused sound, much to the credit of co-producer Brian Garcia, who has engineered releases for King's X, Galactic Cowboys, and others. Via

speaker phone from the Precious Death house, the band recently spoke with Heaven's Metal writer **Randy Rocker** about songwriting, *If You Must*, and their future goals.

HOW IS PRECIOUS DEATH DIFFERENT NOW THAN WHEN THE BAND FIRST FORMED?

"I think we've grown musically," says Dave Bishop, "and it would be really bad if we didn't. Over the years you progress in songwriting and keeping up with the times, and change with the times."



DEATH...

"Three of us are married now," adds Roger Sampson, "and we also know the Bible better."

WHEN PRECIOUS DEATH FIRST FORMED, DID YOU HAVE A SET STYLE IN MIND?

"What happens is you have four different people in the band who write four different ways," answers Roger. "Chris likes the funky stuff; Andy's beginning to like funky stuff, but he was really into the heavy stuff before. Dave was a chunky kind of guy; and I like Rush and stuff like that. We like different kinds of music and we just incorporate four facets into the music and we just come up with our sound."

SOUTHPAW SOUNDED VERY PROFESSIONALLY RECORDED. IS PERFECTION A TRAIT PRECIOUS DEATH STRIVES FOR?

"I guess every band is this way," says Andy Koehler, "but we're never satisfied. The new record we have now sounds even better than *Southpaw*. We had a real rock and roll producer for *Southpaw*. We were trying to get a heavier sound and I think we met somewhere in the middle."

PRECIOUS DEATH HAS ALWAYS PUBLICALLY STATED INTEREST TO SIGN WITH A MAINSTREAM LABEL. WHAT INTERESTED YOU IN SIGNING WITH METRO ONE?

"Our focus has always been not to limit ourselves," states Chris Scott. "We want to go as far as we feel

By Randy Rucker

God is going to take us or let us go. We want to do the best that we can possibly do and to glorify God in our work. Our aim was to go for the mainstream market, because that's a real market.

Whereas, the Christian market is very protected and small. We had goals that were very far reaching. Working with Metro One has been a real blessing, because they're very open to our goals. They have similar views of evangelism, and very similar views of art, work, and music."

IS YOUR LONG TERM GOAL STILL TO SECURE A MAINSTREAM CONTRACT?

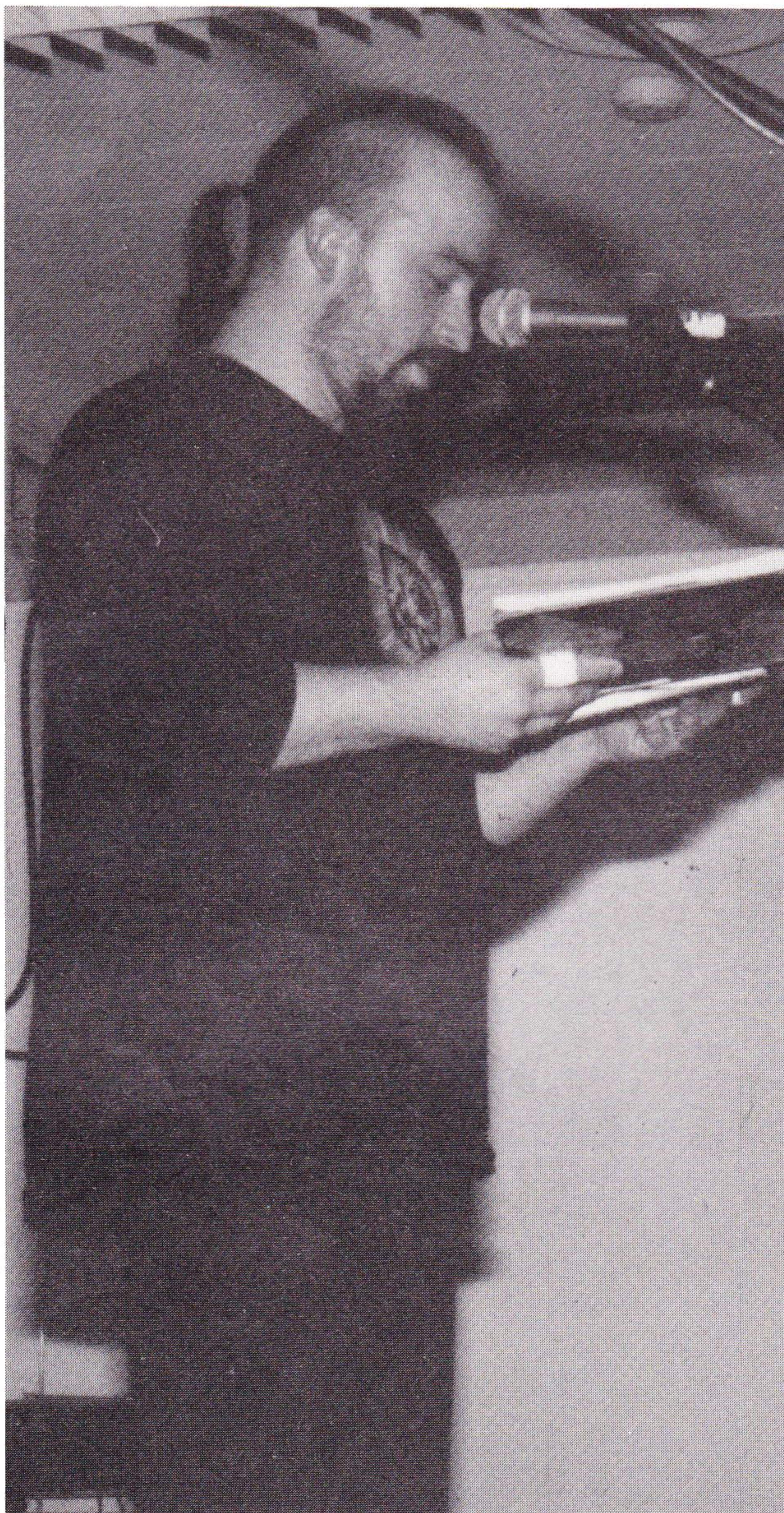
"Our long term goal is to glorify God in all that we do," says Chris, "even if two years from now we're all a bunch of accountants. If we do happen to be working in the mainstream market, it would be fine. If we happen to be working in Christian music, it would be fine. The difference



between the two is, if you're working in the Christian market, you're still doing music for the basic purpose of entertainment, but it's also to edify the body and build up and teach the church. When you're working in the mainstream market, the basic goal is evangelism. But, the basic goal if you're a musician is to entertain and make good music."

DO YOU THINK RECORDING WITH A CHRISTIAN LABEL WILL

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HINDER YOUR CHANCES TO GO MAINSTREAM?

"If you say you're a Christian right off the bat, there's a certain way that mainstream labels are going to look at you, and a certain way about your music and your philosophies. What we found talking with people from the mainstream is: if they really think they could make money doing it, they could care less. They'll put out Slayer one year and they'll put out a Christian band the next if they think they can make money doing it. The mainstream has a track record of putting out Christian albums that were inferior in quality and they never sold any albums, except for maybe Stryper."

in a so-called secular rock band. As far as getting up in front of a bunch of people and telling them about Christ, and telling them about the perfect law of God, which gives perfect freedom. There's certain things that, when you share God and interact with people, especially through your life, it's amazing. It's wonderful and it's very pleasing to you spiritually. There are wonderful aspects to being in a Christian rock band and there are very bad aspects to being in a Christian rock band. Poor distribution, going on the road and coming home in debt is bad, but the payoff is the service that you do for the kingdom of God."

PRECIOUS DEATH STRAYS FROM TYPICAL,

WHAT'S THE BEST AND WORST THING ABOUT BEING IN A CHRISTIAN ROCK BAND?

"Well," says Roger, "it ain't the money, bro (the whole band laughs). We're just supposed to do this, man, and that's the way it is. That isn't super pious or super spiritual, but I'm supposed to be here. It's what I'm supposed to do."

"As far as being in a Christian rock band," adds Chris, "I don't think it would be any different for me if I were

JESUS-IN-YOUR-FACE LYRICS. WHY?

"Everything in life revolves around God," says Roger. "If we write a story about driving a car, it's because God let us drive the car. Music is music. It's not a pagan song if it doesn't say, 'Rock for the Rock' in it. A lyric is a lyric and, as long as it's true, it's okay. As far as I'm concerned, it doesn't say that I have to write a song that says, 'Jesus rocks,' so I'm not going to be bound by anyone's legalistic rules. If the Bible doesn't say it, I'm not going to do it."

"I definitely feel like that all of our lyrics are Christian lyrics and they do glorify God," answers Chris, "and anything that we do will, as long as we do it for His glory and not the glorification of ourselves. If we write a song about anything that we do that happens in our lives, that cannot be any less glorifying to God, because everything that we do is going to be about our relationship with Him or our experiences in this world."

ANDY, CAN YOU TELL US ABOUT YOUR LYRIC WRITING?

"I was always into poetry and artistic things," says Andy, "and that carries into science fiction. To be perfectly honest, even for this album I'll write a couple of songs about things that have happened in my life in an artistic way and I'll look back at it and think the moral's not coming through clear enough. If I start writing a total evangelical song, it just doesn't happen that way for me. I guess that my gift is just to write the way that it comes out. I can't write a certain way to please certain people. I can only write the way God leads me to write. If I try and write the other way, it doesn't come out natural. It almost feels like a job or a contract. What pleases God the most is when I write the way I'm feeling and expressing it. There's a spark of interest in our lyrics and kids come up to us and want to know more. That's why some of the C.S. Lewis novels were so popular."

CHRIS, DO YOU FEEL YOUR VOCAL PHRASING



CHALLENGING WITH THE BAND'S DIFFERENT TIME CHANGES?

"For vocals, there's nothing really I'm going to do that makes sense," states Chris, "because a lot of our songs are musician-written songs. We have some more basic, melodic songs where I get to sing, but a lot of the songs I just try and find something catchy and just go for it."

DO YOU THROW YOUR AUDIENCE FOR A LOOP MUSICALLY INTENTIONALLY?

"We just write what we feel," answers Dave. "We don't aim for a certain sound. It's just who we are. Somehow, the four of us put our ideas together and we just make the songs the best they can be."

"If you really knew the individuals in the band," says Roger, "you can tell who wrote just by looking at the lyric sheet. Our music reveals our personalities."

DO YOU FEEL THAT YOUR DIVERSITY BROADENS YOUR AUDIENCE?

"I feel like our diversity sometimes can put off an audience," says Chris, "but we can't help it, because we have four very different writers writing in every song, so they come out different. I would hope that

we would appeal to more people by having very diverse type of material, but I have had some people comment to me that they can't listen to a whole tape because it sounds like a bunch of different bands."

HOW DIFFERENT IS IF YOU MUST THAN SOUTHPAW?

"I think our writing has progressed," answers Chris. "We're stronger songwriters and know more about music. It will have a similar direction in style, because that's our sound. I don't think you can compare the lyrics on this new album. A couple of songs are about philosophy and psychology and the damaging aspects that it has. I don't think anyone can read the lyrics and not get the point."

"For me," says Andy, "this album's extremely personal. Three of my songs are dealing with some personal situations such as dealing with the death of my father and mother and the way we dealt with that. I just hope some kids take it to heart and see the way I'm dealing with that. I'd also like to say, 'let the Lord Jesus be your model. Don't look at us or any one else to be your role model.' Hopefully, the Lord will be using us in the things we say, but the Lord is the only One who won't let you down." **HM**

PRECIOUS DEATH

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DEGARMO & KEY

GOING TO EXTREMES

By
**Jerry
Wilson**

DeGarmo & Key haven't been around since the dawn of time... It only seems that way. Since the release in 1978 of *This Time Thru* -- one of the first Christian Rock albums, period -- the duo from Memphis have been riding out the ups and downs of their lengthy ministry. They've never been fashionable; never truly "in" or "out" with the Christian rock crowd. What they have been is both consistent and persistent, carving out their own niche in a world where, when they first appeared, Styx ruled rock 'n' roll and has continued to today's current crop of grunge.

D&K's latest effort, *To Extremes*, is likely to catch more than a few people by surprise. The smorgasbord approach to song selection that has marked the past several albums - a few rockers here, some ballads there, some in-between songs to fill out the rest - has been shelved. Instead, from start to finish, *To Extremes* is a basic, no-frills, old fashioned rock 'n' roll workout in which one can hear the roots of just about every style of hard rock currently being played. Loaded with tasty interplay of Key's guitar and DeGarmo's keyboards, the new album is a testimony that there is more than a little fire left in the bones of these war-horses. HM writer **Jerry Wilson** recently spoke with DeGarmo to get his take on the new album, as well as a few thoughts on the current music scene.

THE FIRST QUESTION HAS GOT TO BE ABOUT THAT COVER...

(which features a picture of a dog standing on its hind legs staring into the camera)

"Do you want the truth?" Ed laughs. "The cover started out as a joke. The label we're on (Benson) hired my wife, Susan, who's a graphic artist and has done several of our covers, to do the cover for the album. She made up several mock-ups, and as a joke included this picture of our dog, Woolly Bully. Guess which one they loved? So she cropped the reindeer antlers that he was wearing at the time out of the picture, and this is what we wound up with."

WHAT CAUSED YOU AND DANA (KEY) TO GO IN SUCH A STRAIGHT-FORWARD ROCK 'N' ROLL DIRECTION ON THIS ALBUM?

"Because it was a lot of fun, man. That's about all I can say. We've made all the statements that we need to make, so we thought this time around we'd have some fun."

HOW DO YOU SEE THIS ALBUM FITTING TOGETHER WITH WHAT YOU WANT TO DO IN TERMS OF THE OVERALL MINISTRY OF DEGARMO & KEY?

"We've always had a ministry that we felt wasn't totally in the mainstream of ccm. This record doesn't even sound like a ccm record when you listen to it; it sounds like an AOR album. We believe we'll reach the people because of that."

HOW ABOUT LYRICALLY?

"Many of the lyrics on this album were written out of a sense of feeling helpless. I'm one of those people that gets up every morning, turns on CNN, and watches it for about fifteen minutes until it gets too depressing. I have this personal problem with feeling helpless. It's wrong to feel that way, of course. The Lord teaches us that we are to change this world one by one, not mass of people by mass of people. So, a lot of the lyrics on this album were born out of those feelings."

IS THERE A DANGER OF SOUNDING JINGO-ISTIC WHEN YOU'RE USING PHRASES SUCH AS "BE A REBEL FOR GOD," WHICH APPEARS ON THE NEW ALBUM? NOT THAT THE SENTIMENT ITSELF IS TRITE IN ANY WAY, BUT THE EXPRESSION COULD APPEAR THAT WAY IF ONLY GIVEN A CASUAL GLANCE.

"Not really. Let's use 'Rebel For God' as an example. I think it's a pretty



Photo by Larry Bolen

intense song. The song is about how Generation X is into the whole 'rebel against society' thing. What the song is saying is, that if you want to be a rebel, learn what it means to be a real rebel by going upstream rather than downstream. 'Throw away the garbage you're eating/throw away the lies you're believing/throw yourself into the Savior/and be a rebel for God' is a pretty deep thought. It's not an easy thing to do either."

WHAT ARE YOUR THOUGHTS ON THE CURRENT HARD MUSIC SCENE, SUCH AS GRUNGE?

"Grunge is more an attitude than a musical style. A lot of the groups that are labeled grunge sound very different from one another -- Nirvana, Pearl Jam, and Soundgarden all sound completely different. It's a style that's very steeped in being angry. To me, that's okay, as long as you're being angry and rebellious against sin."

WHEN YOU'RE OUT WORKING WITH VARIOUS CHURCH YOUTH GROUPS, ARE YOU PICKING UP ANY SENSE OF ANGER THAT'S FUELING THINGS SUCH AS GRUNGE? THESE ARE SUPPOSED TO BE "NICE KIDS," AFTER ALL...

"Yes, I've found that kids overall feel the same way. It's just that Christian kids have found a way to be redeemed about feeling that way! When you look at the world situation today, there's not a lot of hope on the horizon. They see us --

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MxPx is Pokin' At Ya!

By Dan MacIntosh

Listening to hardcore punk rock can sometimes feel like a sugar rush, so it's appropriate that MxPx called its debut album *Pokinatcha*, which the band borrowed from a Snickers candy bar commercial. Led by Mike Herrera, and produced by Poor Old Lu (and fellow Washingtonian) Aaron Sprinkle, MxPx (which stands for Magnified Plaid), has thrown its hat (assuming any punk worth his salt even wears hats!) into the ever widening circle of Christian punk rock.

This trio of high school students/working musicians are as ready as they'll ever be for whatever awaits them. "We knew Aaron Sprinkle of Poor Old Lu," explains Herrera, when asked how the band made the jump from the garage to the recording studio. "We played with them and stuff, and they totally liked us. So, Aaron used to always talk to Brandon Ebel (of Tooth & Nail Records). So, basically, Brandon finally heard us and wanted to sign us. We weren't trying to get signed or anything."

Could it be that getting signed is a lot like love? The more you want to be loved, the less lovable you are; and the more you try to be signed, the less signable you are? Just a thought. I'm always trying to help young bands, as well as giving helpful tips to the romantically challenged.

MxPx are still being romanced by the thrill of being in a band, playing local gigs, and recording an album filled with songs that come in at an average length of about two minutes. With bands like Green Day playing both Woodstock and Lollapalooza, and groups like Offspring selling as many records as the big boys, it appears that the style of punk is

alive and well in the 90's. I asked Herrera why he thought punk has had such staying power. I then waited for him to elaborate on the alienation of youth, or the struggle of the lower class, or even a problem of too much time and sugar intake. "Cause it's not that hard to play," answered Herrera to the obvious disappointment of the psychologist inner child within me. "It's not that hard for the bands to get something going, usually," he continued, as my heart continued to sink. "They just don't need to be able to write songs," he went on, now striking at the heart of the music critic under this skin. "As far as playing your instrument, it's pretty easy," he added, as I cancelled my subscription to *Musician* magazine. "I guess that doesn't really answer your question," he concluded. This was followed by a longer than average pause.

"Just about every song is talking about God," says Herrera, when discussing the lyrical content of the band's songs. "God is an everyday thing for me. It's obviously going to come out in my lyrics. It's not always 'Jesus' and

'God,' you know, but it is sometimes. It's kind of there no matter how I say it.

"All our local shows are secular," explains Herrera, when asked about live performances. "But most of the out-of-town shows are for Christians -- like in Seattle and Portland." Surprisingly, the secular bands they play with respect the fact that they're Christians, and usually do not hold it against them. One secular band they know has said to them, "Hey, you guys are Christians, and we're non-Christians. We can play shows together, and that's cool."

"Still, you get people making fun of you, just for the simple fact that you're a Christian band and they don't like you." Herrera explains that they rarely hear such criticisms directly, but often hear them second hand from Christian friends who may be in the audience. "We just go on and play, because we know people aren't going to like us for what we believe."

At first glance, the title *Pokinatcha* made me think of an obscure Native American tribe from some sea coast town in Washington. I was ready to

hear the band tell me the tribal stories passed down to them, from generation to generation, of the ancient wisdom of this indigenous people with their struggles as well as their triumphs. "It's like this joke one of our friends made up," he began, as I felt a stake poking right into the heart of the anthropologist inside of me. "It's on this Snickers commercial. (A guy says) 'When I'm riding out on the range (he's riding horses or something), your appetite is just poking at ya, and poking at ya.' It was so cheesy, but it was such a total joke. So, then we'd say, 'We're from Pokinatcha,' like it was a town. Kind of like it's this one horse town." Much like the more famous Grateful Dead fans, who call themselves "Dead Heads," the fans of MxPx have begun to call themselves "Pokinatcha Punks." Do I smell a Snickers endorsement deal here, or what?

Herrera, master of the two-minute song, is equally concise when explaining how the songs got written. "We get to the point, then we get to our next point." This makes the music appear to be orderly and organized. Or maybe just

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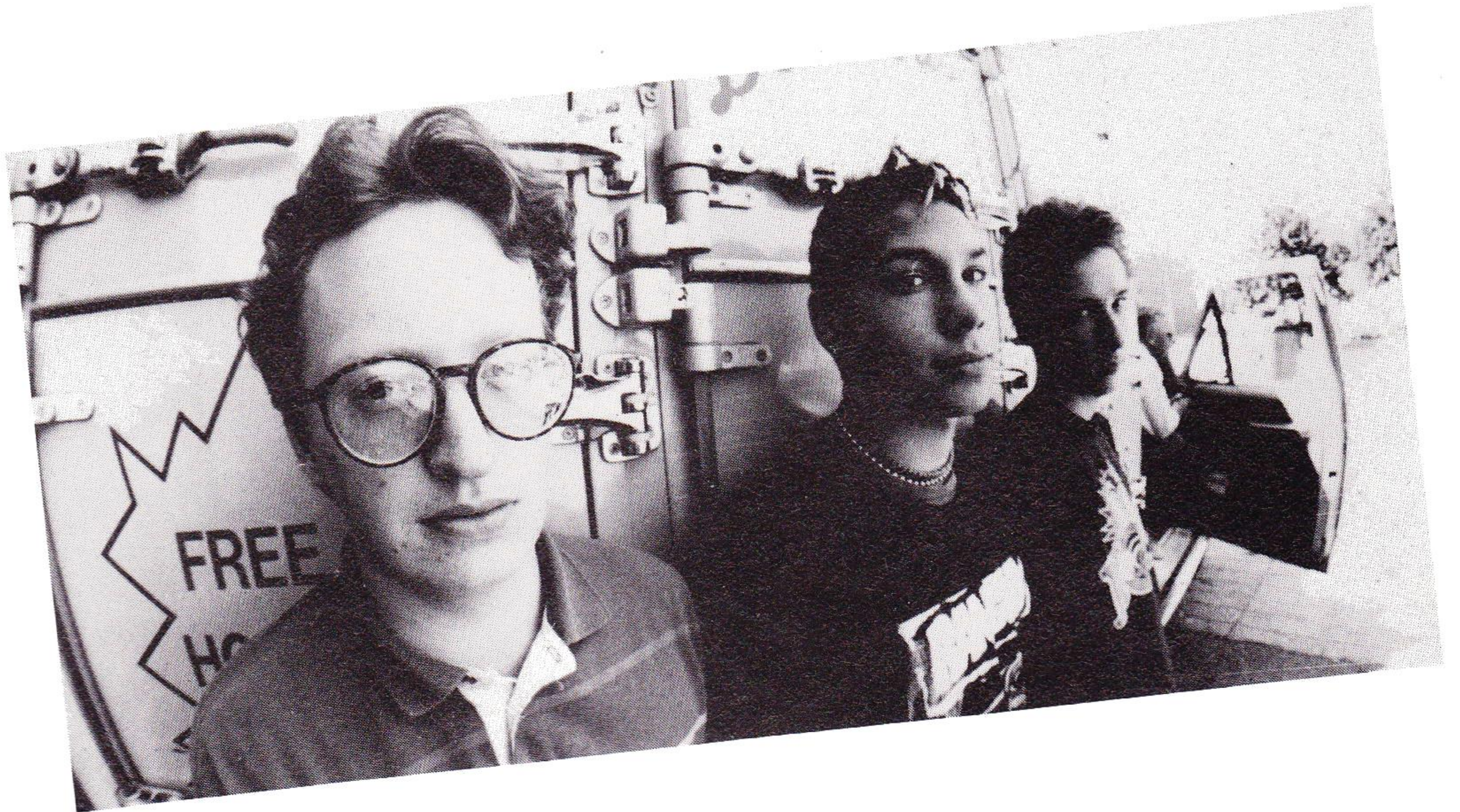


Photo by Brandon Ebel

Prime candidates for an interview

by david
jenison

I remember as a high school sophomore going to a huge Christian metal fest where the bands Barren Cross and Bloodgood were supporting their debut albums. While nothing positive comes to mind about that part of the night, I did get the chance to see Point Blank, the first Christian punk band I've ever heard. Having been totally amazed at their excellent true punk sound, I bought the tape, wore it out, and regretfully never heard about them again -- until now. Point Blank frontman and true punk pioneer Bill Powers has put together an even better punk band -- Blenderhead -- and I am no less impressed. If you're personally tired of wanna-be punk, then Blenderhead's your band. So, until you buy the record, here's a taste of what Bill Powers is like.

LET ME BEGIN BY ASKING THE QUESTION BRANDONEBEL (TOOTH & NAIL RECORDS) ASKED ME NOT TO ASK -- WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THE CHRISTIAN MUSIC SCENE?

"I don't want to live the lie. In the Christian music industry, many people are in denial of the general sin that's a part of everybody's life, and it does everyone a big disservice. People are in denial that things like homosexuality and abortion are happening in the church. They think that, by sequestering themselves off into a little Christian subculture, they can forget it even happens. And then, when a band's on it about who they are, people freak out. There are people struggling in the Christian world, just like there are in the real world. Blenderhead is trying to be a professional band, and not to reduce our music to propaganda. We don't have any kind of weird sub-motive, and I think many Christians are turned off by that."

WHY DO YOU THINK BRANDON DIDN'T WANT ME TO ASK YOU THAT?

"I don't know. Probably because he fears that if I say bad things about the



Blenderhead

Christian music scene, people will get the wrong idea and not buy our records."

FAIR ENOUGH. WHAT ARE YOU PRESENTLY LEARNING THAT'S SHAPING YOUR PERSONAL PHILOSOPHY OF LIFE?

"Lately I've been reading a lot of Francis and Franky Schaeffer books. I just finished Addicted to Mediocrity and now I'm reading The Great Evangelical Disaster. I think I can totally echo what Franky Schaeffer said in Addicted to Mediocrity when he wrote, 'If we've lost some sort of influence in popular culture, we need to reclaim it.' There was a time in culture when people like Bach and Handel led the way in pop culture. They were the standard of what's good and innovative, and now we're so far in the background that no one even knows we exist. When people think of Christian music, they think of Stryper, and we're out to change that."

SO, TELL ME ABOUT THE ALBUM'S INTRO -- IS THAT FROM A REAL RADIO PROGRAM?

"It's the real deal. It was taped from a show in Florida. We thought it was hilarious, because they kept getting our name wrong. They kept calling us 'The Blenderheads.'"

TELL ME ABOUT THE SONG "ALCOHOL HOUSE."

"'Alcohol House' is a first person account of domestic violence. My wife and I were living in this place in West Seattle,

and we had our sliding glass door open one night. We actually heard this woman crying out in pain as she was obviously being beaten. We called the police and everything, yet it still really had an impact on me. There's nothing like the feeling of hearing something like that going on and being so helpless. I just wanted to somehow communicate through music and lyrics what that must have felt like."

WHAT'S THE FUNNIEST THING TO EVER HAPPEN AT ONE OF YOUR SHOWS?

"Well, we played in Portland at this outdoor park, and there were all kinds of street punks there. Some church showed up with these gigantic banners and started passing out tracts. This one lady from the church was talking to my wife, and she said, 'I know why they're called Blenderhead. Your head feels like it's been in a blender after hearing them.'"

WHAT'S THE ONE ISSUE THAT BOTHERS YOU THE MOST?

"The biggest thing upsetting me is liberal people in the mainstream culture who claim to be open-minded, but are totally bigoted. In fact, they're sometimes more bigoted than most right-wing fundamentalists I know. For example, there's this guy who had a Right to Life booth at Lollapalooza. They were actually cool to let this guy go on tour with them and have a booth, but people and different band members were coming by and spitting on him and encouraging people to burn his literature."

"Another example is this guy who runs this street-level rock paper, who I think is the biggest punk rock fascist on the face of the planet. He has this new ad policy where, if you don't fit into his certain criteria, he won't put you in his mag -- it has to be punk rock according to his standards. I grew up in the L.A. punk

Photo by Karen Mason

Deliverance: Riding The River Disturbance

By Dan MacIntosh

There we were, sailing along the calm waters of the interview, when suddenly something caused the river to ripple and the boat to rock. It was not the roar of the rapids, but the roaring of Jimmy Brown's booming laughter that drowned out all other sounds in the room. (For reference, check out the Deliverance interview on the HM Video Mag. Vol. 2) Deliverance's new album for BAI may be called *River Disturbance*, but each time Brown's joviality rings out, it almost serves to remind the world that, at the end of the day, it is well with Brown's soul.

Along with long time bassist Manny Morales and new drummer Jeff Mason (formerly of Betrayal), Deliverance is closing in on 10 years of rock and roll, with one EP and five albums under their belt. One obvious difference between this release and all other recordings of the band is that this represents the first album which does not have the backing of the Frontline Music Group.

"I was basically worn out with working with those guys," says Brown when asked about the timing and reasoning behind the switch. "There's nothing wrong with them. I think they're good people, and what not. There just wasn't a lot of things we saw eye-to-eye on, so we decided to move on and do something different.

"The real reason we went with Brainstorm," continues Brown, "is that we actually were working a deal with Word Records. And we were negotiating that for a good 8 months. I guess they (Word) were going to buy out four of the contracts from the BAI repertoire. It ended up that things weren't going the way we wanted them to. They basically wanted to (with great exaggeration) own the bands completely. We just weren't into those ideas, so they (Word) just went ahead and said 'Phooey' to the deal. And Joe Taylor consequently was left with no record label. Now BAI is still not a record company. They're not a label, and never will be again. They are merely a production company. Joe Taylor felt bad, since we had been strung this whole time for the deal, that he went ahead and financed and funded the record *River Disturbance*, so that this record is literally independently owned. It's our record, but BAI threw financial support behind it."

One wonders how a band can focus on making music and trying to create some kind of an artistic statement amidst so



Jeff, Jimmy, Manny (© IHS Photos)

much confusion and change. "Through all that," says Brown, belting out the first of what would be many laughs, "it was strange. Put it that way! We were going through a member change also. We had just acquired a new drummer (Mason) in the band. The great thing was that we had been working with him for so many months before he actually became a member of the band."

Bassist Morales thinks that Brown uses his writing and singing as a release for some of the emotions that these difficult days created inside of him. "Music," explains Brown, "from my perspective . . . I just kind of let flow out of me. I don't really try and sit down and articulate what I'm writing. I just more or less throw some hooks together or some riffs together. What I mainly myself concentrate on is vocals and lyrics. I would definitely say that it's a huge release with where I go lyrically with each song. That's something (producer) Terry Taylor taught me to do. That's the only way you're ever going to get something true out of an artist. That's using your artistic talents in a true way -- by releasing a part of yourself in every song.

"The ironic thing is that a lot of these songs -- especially on the last two records (*Learn* and this one -- have been real healing to me," continues Brown. "Just by relieving a lot of anxiety and frustration."

The new album's title comes from something C.S. Lewis once wrote about how the believer is able to find peace within

the river disturbance. "In the midst of this river disturbance," elaborates Brown, "the flood's coming, the tide is raging, and everything is just nutso. But, in the midst of the flood, while you're drowning, you can feel the hand of God reaching in, and you can actually find peace."

The band also gives its producer Terry Taylor a lot of credit in helping it put such a personal record together. "I love working with Terry," states Brown. "He's been a hero to me since I was 9 or 10. I hold him up there with Bowie, Brian Eno, and Peter Gabriel, because he's an incredible artist to me. Getting to co-produce this record with him, he let me steer a lot of the ship too. I've always described Terry's active involvement this way: 'If we were making a movie, Terry's the greatest director anybody could ever have, because he knows how everything should go, and he's great at directing everybody. Directing them to the direction they should be going, as far as their abilities, and what they should be doing to make the album better.

"He's hard to work with," admits Brown, changing the tone of his voice to match the sometimes stern nature of Taylor's production methods. "He does not let up as far as vocals go. He pushes me 12 hours a day. He really pushes for gut feeling more than super clean, polished stuff." This is fitting, since Deliverance is out to present truth, not sparkle; or, in other words, the steak and not just the sizzle.

The bottom line is that, when

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there is an alternative!



FEATURES

"Power of God"
previously
unreleased
from
THE CRUCIFIED

The Crucified



The Cry



Union



Trio of One



SPATT



My Private Surf Lesson With Peter King

By Doug Van Pelt

Peter King is a pro surfer. His band, **Dakoda Motor Co.**, plays aggressive cowpunk music. I'm a magazine editor. My magazine, *Heaven's Metal*, sometimes does articles on bands like Dakoda Motor Co. I couldn't think of a better way to merge the two together than suggesting a surf lesson from the pro, so I drove my rental car down to a great little beach town called La Jolla, California (pronounced "la hoy-ya"). As I got close, I was somewhat nervous. "What if I stink? What if I can't get up on the board?" But, like all young Pepsi drinkers, I pushed the doubts out of my mind and pressed on.

Walking in to the King household is like walking into a hip antique store. If you have an old Coke sign on your wall and think you're stylin', you need a lesson in coolness from this guy. Peter is truly king of the retro/nostalgia decor. A short list of things I noticed were: a vintage skateboard, a chess board outfitted with all Simpson's characters, an old TV set with a color picture tube retro-fitted into it, a huge toy train set in his backyard, plus tons and tons of trinkets and cool stuff on his shelves. Everything in the whole house has a sense of purpose and placement, like his life was going to be broadcast on television.

While not immature, this man is a boy when it comes to toys. He knows how to have fun and does it quite often. No sooner does his young nephew, Johnny, arrive and Peter's on the floor playing trains and cars with him.

We've got some big boy playin' to do, though, so we set off for the beach and I begin my first ever surf lesson. Being a pro (he's sponsored by Bill-A-Bong clothing and Bessell Surfboards), he knew just the surf spot to try. It had decent waves that broke off to the left and it wasn't too

crowded. I asked him if he'd taught people how to surf often, and he said, "Just about every weekend," which made me feel more comfortable. We were both a little surprised that I caught the first wave attempted. His instructions and the timely shove on the back of the board gave me enough speed to catch the wave and experience the wonderful world of surfing. The best part was catching a long wave and, after hopping off the board at the end of the ride, looking back and seeing Peter take a wave on himself -- cutting back and forth and throwing in quick tricks -- basically just shredding the wave.

Having experienced a glimpse of his world, I turned on my journalistic behavior mode and began to ask him questions about his life as a guitar player, song writer and leader of the band Dakoda Motor Co. Sitting atop our boards, I asked him to describe his music, which he answered with a quick, "The kind of music that's good!" Not a professed guitar player, Peter states, "I just write songs and play riffs. I don't play any leads. Elliot (Chenault) is our guitar player. He plays the leads and stuff." A lot of his answers, like his lifestyle, are simple and to the point...

When asked how he became a pro surfer, he simply stated, "They told me they'd pay me to surf!" He went on to elaborate, "That's how I got a record deal, too. We found out that somebody would pay us to do music. We thought, 'Wow! Cool!' Because we would've just done it without a record deal and tried to get paid at gigs. It's really cool to be able to have your album distributed amongst a lot of people. Then everyone has access to it. They can choose to buy it or not. You've gotta give everyone that opportunity."

A lot of the record buying public out there (at least in the Christian market) have been taking advantage of their opportunities to buy Dakoda Motor Co. product. They released their second album earlier this summer, and have followed it up with their second full-length video to boot. Audiences have had a good opportunity to catch 'em as well, having played several live gigs this summer, including sets at Cornerstone, Creation, and Sonshine Festival. Dakoda Motor Co. (who used to be known as just Dakoda until someone



with a similar name gave 'em some grief) is really a live band.

"The reason we started was to play live. And that's what I see Dakoda doing forever -- is playing live. That's what we want to do. As long as we can do that, we're still a band. This is not a recording band, you know, that just records albums and then goes and hides. We wanna go out on the road and prove that we played that stuff. Live instruments. Live off-key vocals (he laughs). We're trying our darndest to stay in key, but it's hard. Good sound is in the future for Dakoda. Maybe we'll get a soundman next year. Whew! And start doing sound checks? That'd be awesome! When we started the band, I started it because we wanted to play live. That was the whole goal.

"I wanted to play live, and that was why the band was started -- not because I wanted to go spread the Gospel. I was already spreading the Gospel. I don't need a band to do that. We've got no mandate that we need to say anything from stage or anything other than play our songs. In our songs is enough stuff to make it spiritually worth it to come see us. If you're only coming for that reason . . . which you shouldn't go see a rock band to get preached to. You should go to church to get preached to."

While this may sound like the rambling of someone trying to stay quiet about God, nothing could be further from the truth. Most every Dakoda song starts off as a worship tune. "My relationship with Christ is such that I have freedom to express myself through my art in such a way that it is honestly me. The integrity is



there spiritually because of that. Because I'm honest, it gives it integrity; as opposed to writing to please someone else or please the masses and give them the 'Four Spiritual Laws' in every song. That gets so pre-programmed and planned that it's fake, even though the message is very true, because it's the Gospel. If you're planning to write that, and you strategize it, it's just kind of a fake approach.

"All the lyrics and stuff are just stories about my life, stuff that we've been through, the way we feel. And, just because of the way we feel, there's usually hope at the end of every song. If it's a desperate song -- not all of them are, but some of them are -- there's a hope, a hope in Christ, because I believe a hope in Christ. So, it should just come naturally. The messages should come naturally, not forced. That's how I write, too.

"I get out my acoustic guitar and usually write like a worship song kind of thing. Then, when I have nice chords that go together, I put it all together, make up some words, and then I have to think, 'Wait, Davia (Vallesillo)'s going to sing this. I have to think of some words that she's going to want to sing.' Whenever I sing a song (on the record)," Peter explains, "that's because she didn't want to sing the lyrics -- usually. Instead of throwing the song away, it becomes a song I sing. Which the band regards as the B-song, kind of, but which I regard as the most important," he chuckles.

"I basically just copy old Beatles songs and Rolling Stones riffs and just rip off all my favorites, like The Ramones, or whatever. I don't know! I just make 'em up. No big deal. The reason it all sounds nice is because the way the band plays together. Everyone in the band is really good -- Derik (Toy) on bass; Elliot on guitar; and Chuck (Cummings) on drums. Those guys have been playing for so long . . . and we've all been playing so long together it's very instinctive. We know what the other guy is going to play at a certain time. Everyone knows when to bring it down, when to power through, or when to speed up in a song. A song is supposed to be 4/4 at any time, but we like to speed it up and slow it down dramatically sometimes in a song. It's just the tightness of the band.

"So, I write the song in my house and get all excited, thinking, 'Oh! It's going to sound awesome! I'm going to show it to the band.' Then everyone has their little flavor amongst the framework that's already there. I can only play pretty much straight bass with my fingers and with a pick, but Derik, he walks all over the bass. As soon as I show it to him, he gets one

look and he already knows what I'm doing. He knows exactly how I write. My songs are all pretty much the same. So, he just gives me a smirk and then starts doing his thing over it. Then we all stare at Elliot when it's time for the lead, and he looks back at us, like, 'What?' And we're looking back at him, like, 'Play something, dooey!' So he plays something, and we either go, 'Aah, come on! That was corny!' And then we kind of force him to play something cool. That's us.

"The very last phase is lyrics. Then I have to slave for weeks at a time to convince Davia to sing a lyric to a song. Then she finally does it, and then it's a song. She always hates it at first, and then she loves it when it's done. She says, 'I don't think anyone's going to like this.' I'm like, 'No! Everyone's going to like it! I know they're going to like it!' Then she plays it, and her sister hears it and tells her, 'It's the best thing I've ever heard,' and then she thinks it's good. So, that's how it works.

"I just write music that I would like, that I would listen to. So, it just seems to be working out. That doesn't mean that if everyone writes music that they like, that everyone's going to like it. It's working out that way for me, so I'm happy. I would still be writing music that I liked if nobody was buying it. I just probably wouldn't have a record deal."

As things stand now, the band plans on making its next album an acoustic-type album of half worship songs and half "folk-type" stuff. While a departure of sorts for Dakota Motor Co. (although it will still have their signature style in it), it accurately shows Peter's musical roots. "I started learning the guitar because of worship songs. That's what I like, because they're so good. I love the chords. They're always so nice. The worship songs that were happening about five or six years ago, that I loved, they all sounded like Bob Dylan songs, but with worship lyrics, you know what I mean? They had, like, really simple harmonies and melodies, and what I would call really cheesy chords, and those are the same kind of chords that are in Dakota songs -- very basic. Just go to minor every now and then and you're in there."

Another simple answer from a simple guy. Even though his life remains full of activity and commitments, Peter survives on a simple level. This guy surfs professionally, performs with a band, maintains a healthy marriage, and co-hosts a new game show on MTV. How does he keep it all together and sane? "There's a lot of time in the day," he replies matter-of-factly. "It's called time management. No big deal. I just do it. You prioritize things

and, uh, ya gotta work. A worker is worth his wages, the Bible says, and I'm blessed with a lot of work right now. I'm gonna try and keep it going . . . and start another band too, with my brother. It's going to be called Decoder Ring. It'll be more of the punk stuff, like we do in Dakota, (but) not so much the pop stuff."

He'll be spending the next month and a half in Florida filming 65 episodes for a new game show on MTV called "Sand Blast," which he'll be co-hosting with Summer Sanders, the U.S. swim team gold medalist from the '92 Olympics. "It's an action sports show. It's set at the beach. It has two teams -- a man and girl -- competing against another man and girl team. (One of the games is a version of beach football, where an extra point is scored by one of the players being launched by a giant catapult up and over the goalposts onto a landing pad.) It's like an ongoing series -- different teams every day. They move forward in brackets and they're all competing for a grand prize of either a car or a trip to Euro Disney -- cause we're filming at Disneyworld down in Orlando. There's a little beach down there, and we'll do some fun stuff.

"The reason we started was to play live. As long as we can do that, we're still a band."

"It's weird that it's on MTV and that I'm in a band, and yet it has nothing to do with my band at all. Which would be any band's . . . not dream, but a really good break to get your video on MTV. In case anyone's wondering, it's a really good thing if your video is on MTV. There's nothing wrong with being in front of 160 million people. That's how many people watch MTV. The viewing audience is 160 million people for 65 shows. It'll be on every day starting the week after Christmas, I guess."

Peter shifts gears and puts on his phoney announcer voice: "Sand Blast -- look for it. It'll be the only thing worth watching on MTV . . . unless, of course, they start playing my videos. Hey! That would be cool. I don't think they even know I'm in a band. Hey! They're gonna find out. I'll be wearing my Dakota Motor Co. shirt on MTV and 'There's No Surfing In The Lake Of Fire' shirt."

Peter scored this gig after flying down to the MTV "Beach House" last summer, right after playing three festivals in

Cont'd on page 27

MISSION OF MERCY: A TRIO OF TWO??

By Andrew Crump

There have been many great trios over the past 100 years. Larry, Mo and Curly made millions laugh with their off-the-wall brand of physical humor. George Lucas cast movie goers into the future with his triple onslaught of box-office smashes -- "Star Wars," "The Empire Strikes Back," and "Return of the Jedi." Isaiah Thomas, Joe Dumars, and Vinnie Johnson illustrated how a three guard rotation could win championships, as they led the Detroit Pistons to back-to-back NBA titles.

Another threesome on its way to making a lasting impression in the 20th century is Etcetera Records' new band Mission of Mercy. With the release of its bass heavy, psychedelic, mood swingin', brain ringin' debut album, *Yonderboy*, Mission of Mercy has cleared a way for itself to travel far into the 21st century.

On a first listen of *Yonderboy*, it is easy and maybe even predictable to compare the music to the sounds of King's X. In fact, at one point in time, Doug Pinnick was going to produce the album. As the listener digs deeper into the vibes of the album, the King's X parallel seems to lose its taste, but the band doesn't mind the comparison. "We'll take that comparison," laughed bassist Mark Schwarzburg. "That's being awfully generous on their part, but we'll accept that."

"It's nothing we obviously strive for," continued vocalist and guitarist Randy Kerkman, "But it's nothing that we strive against either. It's just kind of how it came out in the wash. We tried to be ourselves."

If being yourself opens the way for a guitar hero to play on your album, originality may become more popular than ever. Mission of Mercy had the opportunity to bring in guitarist Bruce Franklin from the influential rock band Trouble to appear as a guest musician on one of the tracks off *Yonderboy*. "We've known Bruce for quite a while," explained Randy. "He's from around here (Aurora, Illinois) and goes to the same church. It's always great working with Bruce. He's an amazing guitar player -- probably one of the most underrated players in rock." Bruce added his guitar wizardry on the song "Candyland."

"The first solo he did floored me," continues Randy. "He hated it. He sat in there until he was happy."

The heaviness and driving rhythms of *Yonderboy* coincide directly with the lyrics that are

pounded within the music.

"We don't really preach much, other than what our music says," explained Randy. "We try to be really honest with the struggles and the trials we face. It's mostly written with the idea of looking around and saying, 'This is life from our perspective. These are the pains and trials and joys we face.' We're not necessarily trying to make it a sermon."

One of my predicted highlights on the album is the song "Colors." Many will recognize the words of the chorus ("God makes the colors, but the color doesn't make you God") from REZ's song "Afrikaans" off its 1979 album *Rainbow's End*. Believe it or not, the borrowing of lyrics was not intentional. "I have that album," explained Randy. "I haven't listened to it for years. I was at Cornerstone a couple of years ago and saw a guy with a T-shirt that said that on the back. I thought, 'Wow, that's a great line for a song.' (Randy and Mark erupt with laughter) It totally slipped my mind that it was already a line in a song. If I would have remembered, I probably wouldn't have written it in the first place."

Randy, 30, and Mark, 32, have had several opportunities to share musical experiences like this one. Mission of Mercy is not the first band they have been involved in together. In fact, they first hooked up about 10 years ago, but the musicianship was not what it is today. "We practiced about six nights a week and played out once every six months," remembered Mark. "It was funny," continued Randy, "because, at that time, a lot of our friends that were musicians were really good. We totally sucked at that point. It's just kind of ironic. All those guys that were really good and had reputations for being good players are hardly playing now, or they're just using it as a hobby. We're the ones that have stuck it out, and something's finally starting to pay off for us."

Though things are moving in the right direction for Mission of Mercy, one missing ingredient may begin holding them back. You may have been wondering why so much attention was given to the number three at the beginning of the



story, but only two of the threesome have been interviewed. Well, as of now, Mission of Mercy does not have a drummer. Chris Wicklas, who played on the album, is filling in for the band during local gigs, but the band is in dire need of a full-time drummer to broaden its touring. "Our first priority is to find a drummer," said Randy. "We want to find a drummer and play out."

"That's our long-term goal," laughed Mark.

"We really need to find the right person musically, spiritually, and personality-wise," continued Randy.

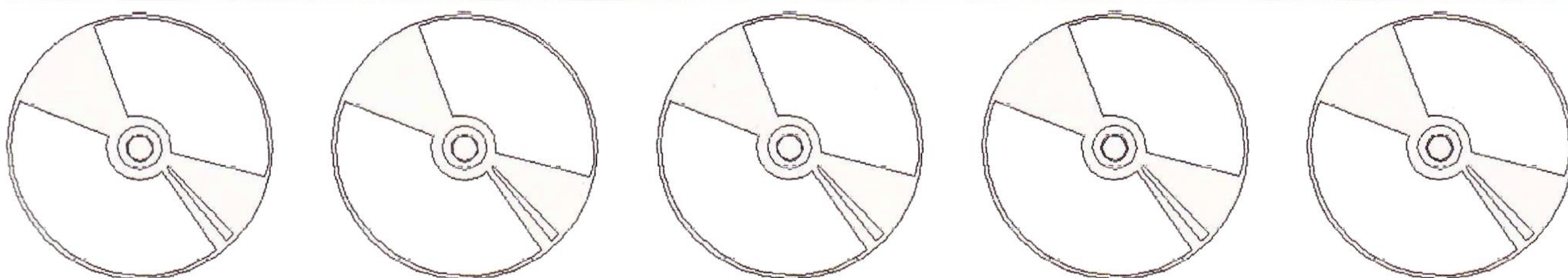
"And that person needs to find the right two people in us," adds Mark.

"Randy and I both work full-time. We're both married. My wife works full-time, and we have three kids. It would make it a little difficult to go out on the road, but we'll just see what happens. It's in the Lord's hands. He will take us where we need to go. If nothing ever comes of the band, we know we gave it our best shot. We're just trying to please the Lord. However He wants to use us, that's going to be fine."

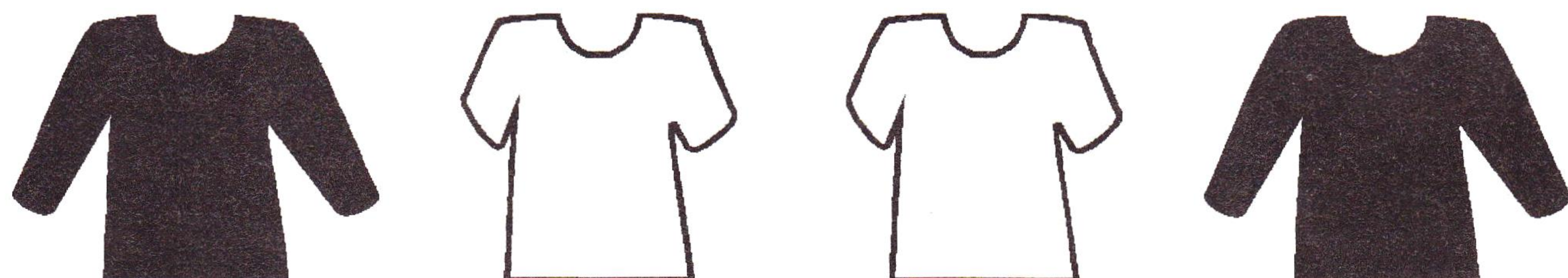
The future can often be uncertain and discouraging. It's nice to know that we have a greater Threesome looking out for us. HM

Photo by Greg Sylvester

SCATERD FEW



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The Return of Scaterd Few

By David Jenison

Scaterd Few pulls no punches. Whether it's something over which they struggle or something they see wrong, the Few have always been open about what they think -- and people haven't liked it. Becoming the most controversial band to ever play to Christian audiences, the Few have fought through years of condemnation and judgment. In this special Heaven's Metal interview, vocalist Allan Aguirre (formerly known as Ramald) and bassist Omar Domkus give their reaction to this condemnation while telling what God's doing in their lives.

WHEN I LAST HEARD OF SCATERD FEW, I WAS TOLD YOU HAD SIGNED TO A SECULAR LABEL THAT SCREWED YOU OVER. WHAT EXACTLY HAPPENED?

"Vox Vinyl told us they had Dr. Dream Distribution and advertising," said Allan, "and so we signed a five-year agreement with them. But, when we got back from Cornerstone '91 to finish the record, they said we couldn't, because they didn't have the money. We asked then that they let us go, but they wouldn't, so I went and found some buyers. There were four labels that wanted to buy the album, but this guy wanted an unreasonable amount of money for unfinished masters. He basically made a total fool out of himself. And then a whole bunch of other things were happening, so we had to break up. I had to leave the band."

WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

"There was sin in my life," plainly answers Allan.

IS THIS NEW ALBUM THE MATERIAL FROM THE VOX VINYL ALBUM?

"*Jawbone of an ass* is the album that should have come out in '91," responds Omar, "but it's all new recordings. It's not like tapes from back then. We re-recorded the album . . ."

"...for the third time!" adds Allan.

Omar continues, "We did it once for Vox Vinyl, and the tracks sucked. Then we replaced Jamie with Paul on guitar, and we recorded the songs for Blonde Vinyl. This time the album was really hot, but then Vox Vinyl showed up and convinced Mike Knott to cough up the masters, and he did. After that we broke up."

WHEN DID YOU DECIDE TO GET BACK TOGETHER?

"September of last year," responds Allan.

WHY GET BACK TOGETHER?

"Boredom," says Allan.

Omar laughs, "Exactly!"

HOW IS THE NEW ALBUM BEING DISTRIBUTED?

"We are strictly selling the album through mail-order and live shows," replies Allan. "We are not interested in stashing the album in the Christian bookstore situation. The reason we're doing it this way is so we can make the full retail (price) . . . that way we can actually get set up with proper legal representation to secure a licensing or distribution deal through a secular independent."

WHY DO YOU NOT WANT TO BE IN THE BOOKSTORES?

Allan answers, "We've felt -- the Christians in the band -- that the most embarrassing and pathetic thing a Christian artist can do is to call himself a Christian band and then hide his music in a Christian bookstore where old ladies frequent. It's inbreeding, dude."

SO, WHAT IS THE NEW SCATERD FEW LIKE? YOU HAVE HAD A FAIRLY CONTROVERSIAL PAST.

"Well, let's see," responds Allan with mild annoyance, ". . . the new Scaterd Few. Well, it has two non-professing Christians, two professing Christians, and my brother Drew, who has experienced the Lord, but hasn't walked in about a decade."

I'M SURPRISED YOU'RE SO OPEN ABOUT HAVING NON-CHRISTIANS IN THE BAND.

"Omar remarks, 'That's because most of the Christian bands exploit the Christian market and live off those people. They put across this image that they've got everything together, but that's not reality.'"

Allan adds, "In contrast, I've always been honest with my sin, which people don't like. I look at it this way: if there were more Christians out there with the talent of Scaterd Few, there'd be more bands like Scaterd Few out there. So,

why aren't there?"

HUH?

Allan answers, "What I mean is, I can't find Christians that can handle this. They either couldn't play the music, or they had really whacked out theology. I had to resort to the next thing -- non-believers -- real musicians. We are not a Christian band. Christians are the only people that put the name 'Christian' in front of something to justify it. Why? Because their identity in Christ isn't sufficient enough."

HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT ALL THE SCRUTINIZATION SCATERD FEW HAS RECEIVED?

Allan responds, "The church has violated many basic biblical principles when it comes to Scaterd Few -- gossip, slander, rumors, judgment, the list goes on. Even if we were Rastas, or heroin addicts, or gay, or child molesters, where does it say you can slander those people? I've always been extremely honest with everybody. I have publicly given the name and number of my pastor so they can check it out for themselves, but no, they'd rather slam us. But remember, we're talking about people that don't know God. They call themselves Christians, but they don't have a single clue about spiritual things. That has turned out to be my ministry -- to try and give a tangible example of Christ to these people, so they can get a clue."

Omar adds, "I have one thing to say: 'pray for those who despitely use you. Love your enemies.' The whole Matthew 7 ethic. One day Jesus came into Jerusalem on the back of an ass, and they cried, 'Hosanna!' and praised Him for Who He was. Forty-eight hours later, they were hanging Him, yelling, 'Crucify!' And what did He say? Did He stop the show and say, 'Hey you (bleep)! Screw this, I'm going back to Heaven and let you guys die in your sin?' No! Like a sheep to the slaughter, He didn't even open His mouth. He died for our iniquities in spite of ourselves. Well, gee, from what I understand in my Bible, we're supposed to be Christ-like. It's not really that difficult when you go past the nonsense. I'm not looking at a bunch of dysfunctional 17 to 28 year olds. I'm looking at people that just don't have a clue!"

WHAT'S THE MOST IMPORTANT THING YOU'VE LEARNED FROM ALL THIS?

"That God is a faithful and righteous God," answers Allan. "At least for me in my life, He is the God that can restore. He can give back whatever you've lost. That's what I've learned."

The Scaterd Few's new album is available for \$15 (plus \$2 S&H -- checks made out to Sopa Records). Write: PO Box 10111, Burbank, CA 91510. HM



Veni Domine: Out From The Unknown

By Staffan Gustafsson

One of Sweden's finest metal bands is back. A band that's been looked upon by some as a hybrid of Queensryche and Black Sabbath. You know who I'm talking about . . . Veni Domine. These guys were quite unknown even here in Sweden until they released their debut album -- *Fall Babylon Fall* -- a gothic masterpiece. They got some great reviews from secular magazines; but, due to lack of distribution and promotion, they didn't get the attention they deserved. What else is new about Christian rock music?

It's been over two years now since their first album, and it has been awfully quiet concerning these dudes from Sollentuna, outside Stockholm. What happened? Did they move to Nashville to pursue a cyber-punk-country career? Or did they decided to become professional camel racers in the Eastern Sahara? Nope. None of the above. The band decided to break the contract with Kingsway Records due to lack of distribution and promotion. "It was a mutual agreement . . . no hard feelings," says vocalist Fredrik Olsson, as I caught up with him late one night on the phone. "We talked to Kingsway's manager, John Pack, (and) he understood our frustration and we parted as friends.

"Now, we have a deal with a small Swedish secular label called Thunder Load Records. We worked in their studio both on the first album and this new one. The new album is produced by the studio owners -- Ragne and Styrbjorn Wahlqvist. We know the guys, since we worked with them on our previous album. Our goal has always been secular distribution. After all, it's the secular crowd we want to reach. We don't mind playing at 'Christian concerts,' but we don't wanna get stuck playing only the Christian scene," says Fredrik.

The band started in 1987 as Glorify. They got a new bass player, changed to a heavier music style and became Seventh Seal. After a while they got a letter from an American band that had patented the same name. So, before recording the first album, they changed their name to Veni Domine (which is Latin for "Come Lord," taken from the last part of Revelation 22). "It's a very different and unusual name, so I'm sure we get to keep it this time..."

Veni Domine consists of Fredrik Olsson (25) on vocals; Torbjorn Weinesjo (24) on guitars; Tomas Weinesjo (28) on drums; and "the old man" Magnus Thorman (31) on bass.

"It's a bit frustrating that it's taken so long since our debut album," admits Fredrik. "There's been different reasons. The song writing process has taken some time and we really wanted some good and powerful material for the new album. The title for the album will be *Material Sanctuary*. It will be released this Fall.

"On the first album, the lyrics were taken directly from the Scripture. This time it deals with more everyday issues. It will have 9 or 10 songs and is definitely heavier than our last album. The songs are more even, or consistent, since it's been written within a shorter time frame. This time we have experimented a little more and become more advanced musically.



"The title track deals with man's quest for material belongings, only to find it cannot satisfy. 'The Meeting' is about an old man looking back at his life and he meets God. 'Wrath of the Lion' deals with how we are submitted to governments and our society, but that Jesus is our actual Lord. 'Ecclesiastes' is the only song taken directly from the Bible. It's probably the most brutal and heavy track on the album. 'The Mass' is like a haunting worship song with a choir. 'Behold the Signs' tells about the signs of the time. 'Beyond the Doom' is like a rock opera. And we have another track called 'Ritual of the Sinner.'

"I think we have a more distinct sound now and that we have become more progressive. We basically try to sound like ourselves, without looking too much over our shoulder to see what other bands sound like. Actually, I don't listen to hard rock very much myself. I get my share of hard rock working in the band. When I relax, I wanna listen to something totally different, like Kate Bush, Rush, or classical music.

"Now, when the album is ready, we hope to get out and play live more than we've done previously. We feel that we have more back-up and support from our new label -- Thunderload Records -- and that we as a band have a better insight on what's happening.

"We played a gig in Stockholm at a place called 'Melody,' (where) there were a lot of death metallers in the audience who really liked us. But, when we started to talk about our faith, some of them split and others stood at the front of the stage the rest of the night showing us their long finger. I think it's positive that they reacted. It shows our message came through. I'd rather have someone doing that than not caring at all.

"We were in a debate program about hard rock on a local TV channel in Stockholm with a secular death metal band called Murdoch. They were kind of hostile and the host of the program (a controversial Swedish comedian) kind of made it get a little out of hand, so we really didn't get to talk that much to them. A lot of deathmetal bands seem to believe you have to have an evil image just to be cool, and to hate Christians without really having a reason or finding out facts first.

"In *The Aftonbladet* (one of Sweden's biggest papers), we met another death metal band called Unleashed, and we kind of met the same attitude there. When you read their lyrics and talk to them, you realize that much of this hate has its root in misconceptions about Christianity, personal problems, and being raised in a family with no love. A lot of these guys are hateful and frustrated, so it's really very tragic, and you can't help but feeling sorry for them. When we discussed with the guys in Unleashed and questioned their statements and accusations, they hadn't any facts to support what they said. I don't think they really knew what they were talking about at all. So, in the end it became quite embarrassing for them.

"Most of the time, though, we feel that we get respect for what we're doing and we have gotten pretty good reviews from some secular magazines. We meet a lot of musicians as well. I know some of the guys in Candlemass (a Swedish secular doom metal band) and the guitarist in another band called Talisman. They're impressed that we stand up for our faith the way we do and we get to talk to them. There are not that many Christian bands here, so I guess they respect us for being different.

"The most rewarding thing about playing is when you see the fruits of what you're doing through letters and talking to people after the show. It's a real blessing to be able to affect somebody's life in a positive way.

"We really hope you like the new album," concludes Fredrik, "and we would love (hint, hint) to come to the U.S. and play live."

There you go, folks! Expect a great album and some powerful live shows with intensity to melt your earwax. I think it's time for the people at Cornerstone Festival to get some talented European bands in the line-up for next year. Veni Domine deserves it. Meanwhile, the album ships in Europe and Japan as this issue goes to press, and a video for the song "Ecclesiastes" has been shot, which will probably air on Europe MTV's version of "Headbanger's Ball." An American distribution deal is being worked on.

HM

Swinging With Guardian

By Andrew Crump

They know what you're thinking...

Approximately two years ago, a rather popular rock band left the glamorous life of California and headed East to what many call the Bible Belt. As the months rolled on, the band recorded an album that snugly fit the mold it had been shaped into back in its L.A. days. But, as the months crept closer to 1995, something bizarre happened. This great rock 'n' roll band relinquished its power to the wimpy musical standards of the two-steppin' capital of the world -- NASHVILLE.

We all knew it would happen. It was just a matter of time. Guardian has left behind its days of surfing with Cheeko and Moondog, wearing shorts on Christmas Eve, and playing loud rock 'n' roll that your mother can't stand. Now, David Bach, Tony Palacios, Jamie Rowe, and Karl Ney are trying to be family men, eating grits on Sunday morning and pickin' and grinnin' with Garth Brooks. The band's new album, *Swing Swang Swung*, is more of an acoustic oriented album. My mom even likes it. Why didn't Guardian move to Seattle?

Well, believe it or not, if Guardian would have moved to Seattle, Chicago, next door to Ozzy or even staying in L.A., *Swing Swang Swung* probably would have still been recorded. "We have been trying to make an acoustic record now for three and a half years," explained David. "We finally had this window of opportunity, and it turned out to be more than just an acoustic record. It was just going to be like an EP, and we ended up with 25 songs (12 of which appear on the album. One additional song will appear as a B-side). And then, sure enough, in true rock 'n' roll fashion, we couldn't leave well enough alone. We started

adding bass and electric guitar. So, when you listen to it, you're gonna hear that it's not really an acoustic record. For us, this album was never meant to be the next Guardian record; and, unfortunately, it's become that. For us, we were just venting a little creative steam."

It's amazing that John and Dino Elefante didn't release some of their own steam upon the band. It seems that Guardian chose to record most of the new album in John's 24-track garage, instead of using the Elefante Brother's brand spankin' new Brentwood, Tennessee studios. The garage allowed the band to create more of a dry, raw sound. "The new album is lighter in that there is a lot of acoustic stuff, but I don't think that you will find any of it wimpy or anything," explained David. "It's not overly processed or polished. I don't think it's a pop record at all. There is some grindage."

"Not typical grind," continued Tony. "I think it's more grind in attitude than it is just having a full blown guitar sound or something like that. We wanted a mellower kind of music, but with our attitude."

Well, if Nashville has had little or no effect on the band's musical aspirations, does this mean that Guardian is taking a ride on the lighter side for natural reasons, such as old age or the desire to be a part of MTV's unplugged generation? "Songs like 'Curiosity Killed the Cat' and 'Dr. Jones' are obviously Guardian," explained Jamie, "but 'Sweet Mystery' and 'Never Say Goodbye' are also Guardian. It's still us. It's not like, 'Whoa! What the heck did they do?' People can't say we've sold out, cause it's still us."

"Exactly," added David. "That's the big Heaven's Metal question -- 'Has Guardian sold out?' Absolutely not. What led us to this record was not any



commercial trends. It was more to fight musical boredom. Our next studio record will probably be something altogether different. Hopefully, we're really a musical band that can do all kinds of stuff, and we're not riding trends. We may lose some of our old fans who say, 'This isn't the same Guardian,' but then again, I can say that we never meant this to be the next bonified Guardian record. It's become that, and we're not ashamed of this record. Hopefully, we will gain new fans and expand our crowd -- turn them on to new sounds."

Guardian by no means is the first rock band to put out a "not so heavy" album. One of the heaviest bands in the 90's has done the same thing -- twice. Not to compare Guardian to Alice in Chains, but there is something to learn here. "You see how their record (*Jar of Flies*) is different, but it is still them?" asks Jamie. "Without sounding arrogant, I

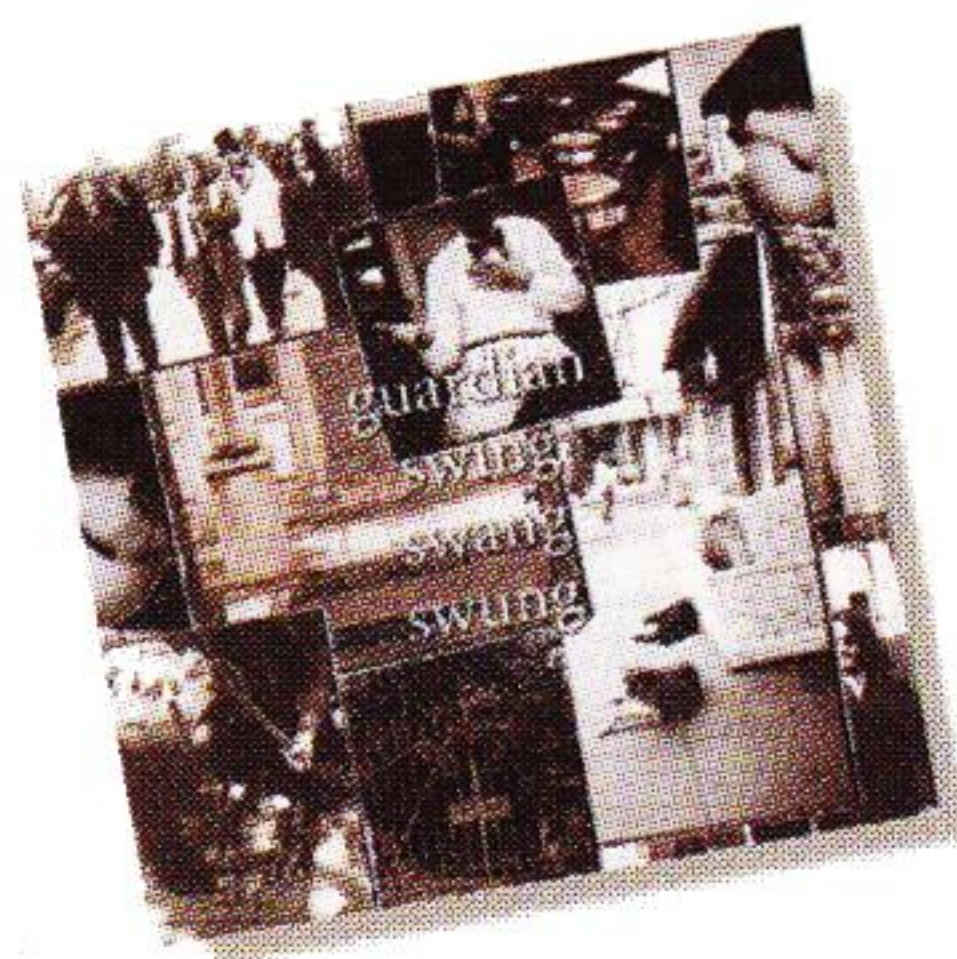
think we have accomplished the same thing."

"That's a very good analogy," agreed David. "That's what we meant this record to be. I always knew those guys (Alice in Chains) had more in them, and they proved it. They really blew my mind. Here's a band that musically has it going on, but they can do all kinds of different stuff. We don't compare ourselves to them, but that is what we are trying to do also. Hopefully, we have a chemistry with the four of us, that whatever comes out stylistically will have a Guardian stamp on it."

The band knew what you were thinking (even Karl, though he wasn't quoted). How else would the subject of Nashville string together so many words? Maybe now we have all learned that the city that surrounds the Grand Ole Opry is not a rock 'n' roller's nightmare. **HM**

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Undercover: A Thinking Matter

By Brent Hershey

Since their 1986 watershed album, *Branded*, the music of Undercover has always been secondary. Although used to great effect - both *Branded* and 1990's comeback album *Balance of Power* employed dark guitars, eerie keyboards and vein-popping vocals in conveying the confusion, anger and frustration of human failure; *Devotion's* cleaner, upbeat, and funkier palette mirrored the album's reconciling and forward-looking themes -- the real treasure of a new Undercover album is anticipating where and how the lyrics are going to hit you. The



individual songwriting talents of founders Gym Nicholson (guitar) and Joey Taylor (keyboards, bass) have continually added a new depth of discovery for listeners willing to identify and be vulnerable. With that in mind, the group (including new singer Rob Gallas and drummer Chuck Cummings) has just released *Forum* -- the title itself based on concepts and ideas rather than on blacks and whites. Some of *Forum* is a departure musically from what we've come to expect -- sunny violins spice up two cuts and "Whoa, Nelly" is a country/blues stomp -- but that trademark Nicholson guitar tone remains a constant and assures that old fans will not complain. With that in mind, we mostly focused on the non-musical in a talk with spokesman Ojo Taylor.

THIS IS THE FIRST RECORD WITH NEW VOCALIST ROB GALLAS AFTER FOUR ALBUMS WITH SIM WILSON. HOW DID ROB BECOME PART OF UNDERCOVER?

"Singers are the hardest to replace," answers bassist, founder, and leader Joey Taylor, "just because there's so many variables that need to be right. If you replace a drummer, you just need to get a good drummer. But, when you get a singer, he not only has to be able to sing well, he has to look good, he has to be able to move correctly, he has to be able to visually represent what he's singing -- he has to mean it. And, on top of that, he has to be someone you can work with. We had played a show once with Rob's old band, Black And White World, and I had never heard of them before. So, I went in, as we normally do, to catch a couple of songs, and this guy was frantic. But that was a year and a half

ago. So, when we were just sitting around, trying to think of people (to replace Wilson), I asked Chuck, 'Hey, what about that guy in Black And White World?' We weren't trying to steal their singer or anything, but I didn't know if they were still together. So, Chuck called them up, and, since things weren't really happening for them, Rob said, 'Heck, yes.' And we're real happy with him."

YOUR 12-YEAR OLD SON, SQUID, PLAYED

KEYBOARDS WITH YOU ON TWO OF THE NEW SONGS. WHAT WAS THAT LIKE?

"It was fun. Really, what I was trying to do was to get him interested in the thing. He's not a trained keyboardist or anything. So, I told him what to play, and in 'Forum' itself, it was really neat, because we started to come up with some better parts than the part that I had worked out for him to play. So, he was really part of the creative process also. It was a neat experience."

YOU RECENTLY EARNED YOUR COLLEGE DEGREE, DIDN'T YOU?

"Well, I finished some and then I started some again. I graduated from Cal State-Fullerton with a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology with a minor in Business. Mike Stand (Altar Boys/Clash of Symbols) and I graduated together, in fact. I'm at UCLA now, getting an MBA."

HOW HAS YOUR COLLEGE EDUCATION EFFECTED YOU PERSONALLY?

"I started studying sociology back in '85, because that's when I got divorced. And there was a class being offered at Cal State-Fullerton in the Sociology Department called 'Sociology of Marital Dissolution.' I said, 'That's exactly what I'm going through right now. I'm going to take it, and find out how I failed, what I did wrong, what the factors are that influence marriage and its success. Especially because marriage is so important in one's religious environment.'"

"So, I took the class as a matter of personal growth more than anything else, and it really hit home. And I started taking other classes -- 'Child in American

Society,' cause I've got five kids, 'Sociology of the Family' -- all kinds of family-oriented sociology classes -- simply because that was one area that was so significant that I failed in. I had no idea that it was going to impact my social outlook in general as much as it did. Not only is marriage itself so important to our Christianity, it is a religion that outside of its social context is meaningless. And I support that by the Scripture where John says, 'If anyone says, 'I love God,' yet hates his brother, he is a liar.' (1 John 4:20)

"It made me realize that this is a social religion. It's a personal relationship, but you can't end there. So, it really did influence the way I started to see social structures and the way religion itself is structured; the way we do it formally, on an institutional level. It allowed me to critique our religious practices. So, it really did change me quite a bit."

"The ironic thing is, at the time, here I am, completely destroyed over the failure of my family, and I'm going to school to figure out how it happened and why it happened -- and, at the same time, I'm listening to the 'gatekeepers' of the Christian industry, and the 'gatekeepers' of the pastorate at churches telling me what a bum I am, and how insincere I am -- 'Oh, we can't have you at our church,' and all of this type of thing. And it's like, 'You just don't get it at all.'"

HOW HAS IT AFFECTED UNDERCOVER THROUGH YOUR SONGWRITING?

"I think you can see a gradual maturing, I would like to think. With the new record in particular, you've got 'Symbol,' which is right down this alley -- the meaning that people attach to things. Let's look at marriage, for example. You both come in with expectations, many of which are not verbalized. You expect your wife is going to do this or that, and she has expectations of you. And when you fall short of those expectations, that means something to her. To you, it may only be, 'Well, I never thought of anything like that.' But, to her, it's 'Hey, wait a minute! You violated one of my very core things that I expected from this thing.' So, that's what 'Symbol' is all about -- that what something means to one person is not necessarily what it means to another. We have to learn to detach ourselves from symbolic meaning, and look at what's really true here."

"The American flag -- that's a symbol. For someone to burn the American flag just burns at the heart of so many people. But I disagree -- it's not the flag that these people fought for, it's what the flag represents. That's what they fought for. And it's the same thing in religion -- what does a cross mean? For Madonna, it means one thing, to someone else it means something totally different. So, we have to watch how we toss our rules on somebody else -- our norms, to use a social phrase. That's one way that it affected this record directly."

YOU DEDICATE *Forum* TO YOUR MOTHER, ROSE MARIE TAYLOR, WHO DIED

Cont'd on page 74

DeGarmo & Key continued:

meaning my generation, the baby boomers -- as having screwed up the environment.

They see the fallacy in trying to be happy by making a lot of money. The '80's was the decade of greed, and that's definitely out.

"I find that Christian kids are indeed angry, the same way that Generation X is. I think they tend to whitewash it a bit when they're in church group behavior."

ONE OF THE COMMON BELIEFS WITHIN THE CHRISTIAN MUSIC INDUSTRY ITSELF IS, "IF IT'S ROCK 'N' ROLL"--REGARDLESS OF THE STYLE, IT'S AUTOMATICALLY ASSUMED THAT IT'S-- "FOR THE KIDS." AS YOU'VE GROWN OLDER, DOES IT GET HARDER TO REACH YOUTH?

"Yes, it does. I don't feel myself that I'm necessarily making music for the kids. I make music I like. I'm one of those people who's been lucky enough to figure out that, if I like it, someone else is likely to like it as well.

"I want to change people's lives through our music. However, I am firmly convinced that you can't make music based on what you think other people will enjoy. You can only make what you enjoy and hope other people will also enjoy it." **HM**

MxPx cont'd:

impatient.

Impatient or not, the band is kept organized by the special input of Herrera's mom, who also deserves special thanks for helping to set up this interview. "It's pretty cool," responds Herrera to his mom's involvement in the band's progress. "It takes a lot of the work off of our hands. She buys all the stuff for stamps and letters. She makes our stickers, she orders our T-shirts, and everything." She also makes them peanut butter and jelly sandwiches, sows patches on their Toughskin jeans, and tucks them in at night. Whoops! I made that last part up. Guess I let my imagination get carried away.

But, if you want to get carried away in this heavenly mosh pit of life (he says, reaching much too far for a bad metaphor), then the true to the streets hardcore punk of MxPx is for you. Just take my word for it, or else I'll have to start pokinatcha. **HM**

Blenderhead cont'd:

scene, going to see Black Flag, the Adolescents, and the Vandals . . . and, to me, the idea that you can't be a Christian and be in a punk band is the most ludicrous thing I've ever heard in my life. What does an ideology of your religion have to do with anything? I don't understand why people don't call Shelter a Krishna band, because they're all Hare Krishna's. We've never shoved anything down anyone's throat; but, because we believe in God, we're wrong. You can be Krishna, liberal, satanic, but don't be Christian. I think that angers everybody in the band.

"On the flipside of that, in the Christian industry, if you're not evangelical enough, you get flack. Brandon will just love that I mention this, but our distributor freaked out on our artwork, because there's a guy smoking a cigar in there. People need to just get over all that. We weren't trying to be controversial, we just wanted some funny pictures in there. None of us smoke or drink -- we just wanted to be funny. It's ridiculous and so trivial. It's like when someone asked Wish For Eden if the album's about masturbation, because it's called Pet The Fish. And someone else asked Sometime Sunday if that's a condom on the back of their album. I've heard it all.

"Here's another thing: Something else Brandon wouldn't want me to say: There are Christian stores that won't carry Wish For Eden, because they don't think their lyrics are Christian enough, yet that same store will sell Rush Limbaugh . . . I personally don't, but who made him theological and Wish For Eden not? It's so arbitrary.

"I want to challenge people to buy our albums in record stores or through mail order. I do the mail order, so if people buy an album through it, I'll personally put the CD in an envelope and send it to them. I just like that DIY independent ethic, because if corporate people get into it, they want to judge by outward appearance. Even before listening to song one, they don't like the pictures and they don't like that there are no lyrics -- so it's automatically wrong. We want people to be open-minded and listen to it, and if they don't like it, that's cool. Pray for us, and let us go on our way."

If you want to take the "Bill Powers challenge" and order any Tooth & Nail product, send \$14 for a CD or \$10 per tape to: PO Box 12698, Seattle, WA 98111-4698. **HM**

Deliverance cont'd:

you're in the depths of trouble, you're never concerned about whether or not this is a good hair day. You're more concerned about where your help will come from. It's simple, but true, that the band's name says it all -- Deliverance. When they're sucked in by the river disturbance, they know where their deliverance will come from. **HM**

Dakota Motor Co. cont'd:

a row. He co-hosted the show "Prime Time" with fellow pro surfer, Brad Gerlach. After being interviewed and introducing several videos, the guys did some public service announcements about pollution on our beaches. Afterwards Mike Bloom, who produces the Beach House, called Peter up and told him, "Hey, there's this game show coming up called 'Sand Blast.' You'd be perfect for it. They need an athletic-type guy who is funny and can talk."

"I guess he thinks I'm funny looking," adds Peter, "so I called up the producer and said, 'Hey, I heard you need a host,' and he gave me a screen test and they called me back two weeks later and said I got the job. I'm going down to Florida for the month of October, which is one of the reasons why we couldn't do the Steve Taylor tour. So, to all of you people, I apologize, but I had to go do this thing, ya know? We'll be back. I'm bringing my golf clubs and I'm going to golf every day."

The fun never stops for this guy. "No, it doesn't," he agrees. "Look at my house. Look around." As I take one last look around, viewing several of his wife's paintings of relatives at their wedding party and swimming pools that Peter's skated in, the King of fun plops back down on the couch to play another game of "Mortal Kombat" on his Gameboy (handheld Nintendo set). So I leave, concluding that I've spend an afternoon with the coolest dude in Christian music (Who else can claim several pro surfing sponsorships, makes his own music videos, and co-hosts a nationwide game show? I know Crystal Lewis had a brief stint on the Nickelodeon show "Roundhouse," but I doubt she's as hot as Peter on a surfboard). The coolest thing about the coolest dude in Christian music is that he's also the most average joe you'd ever meet. He's down to earth, loves to play Nintendo, watches Beavis and Butt-head, likes music to be real, and loves Jesus. What a combination!

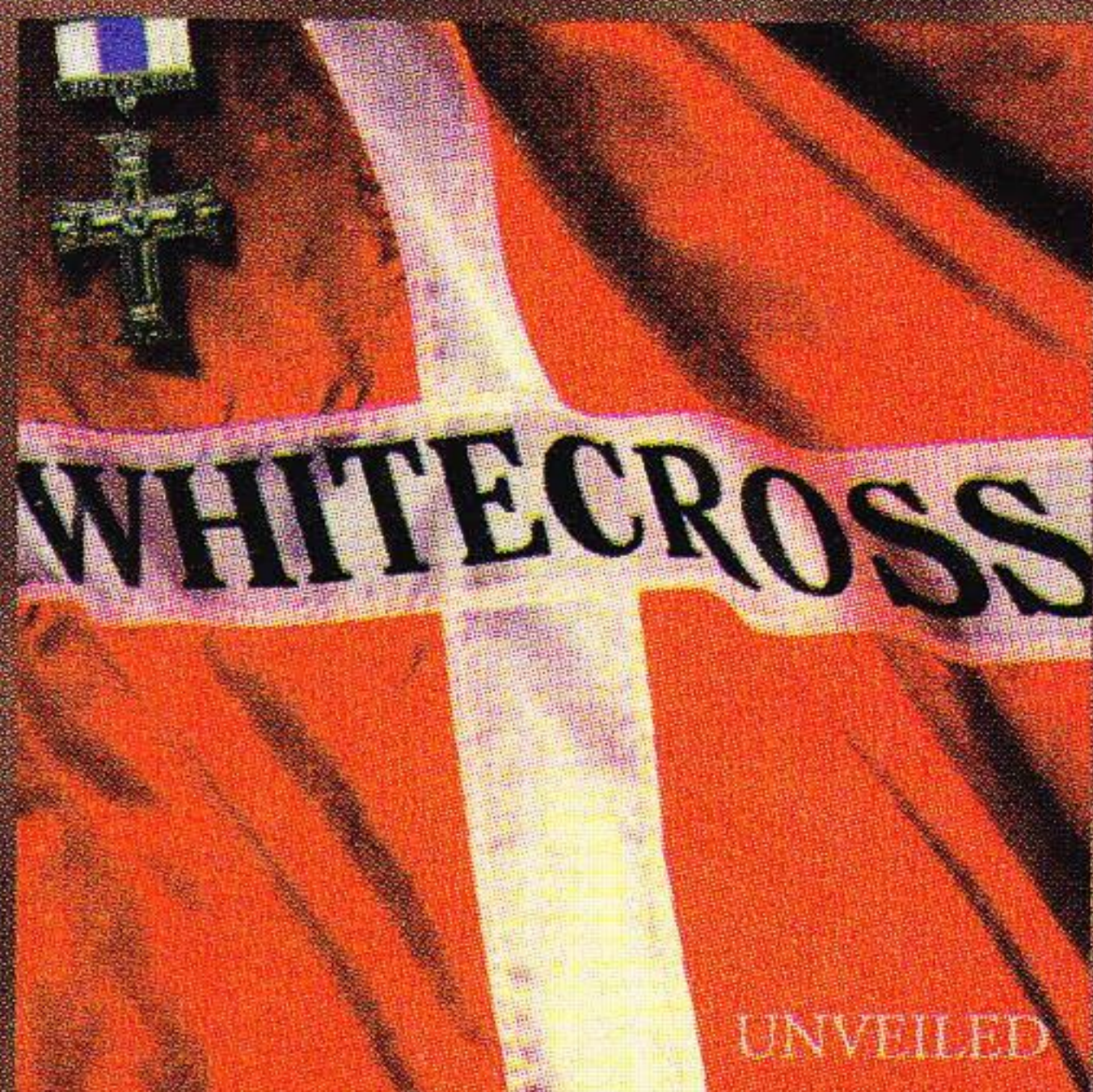
I drive back into L.A. having fulfilled a long-time dream. "I'm a surfer now. Thanks Peter!" (I won't be sending out sponsorship letters just yet, though.)

HM

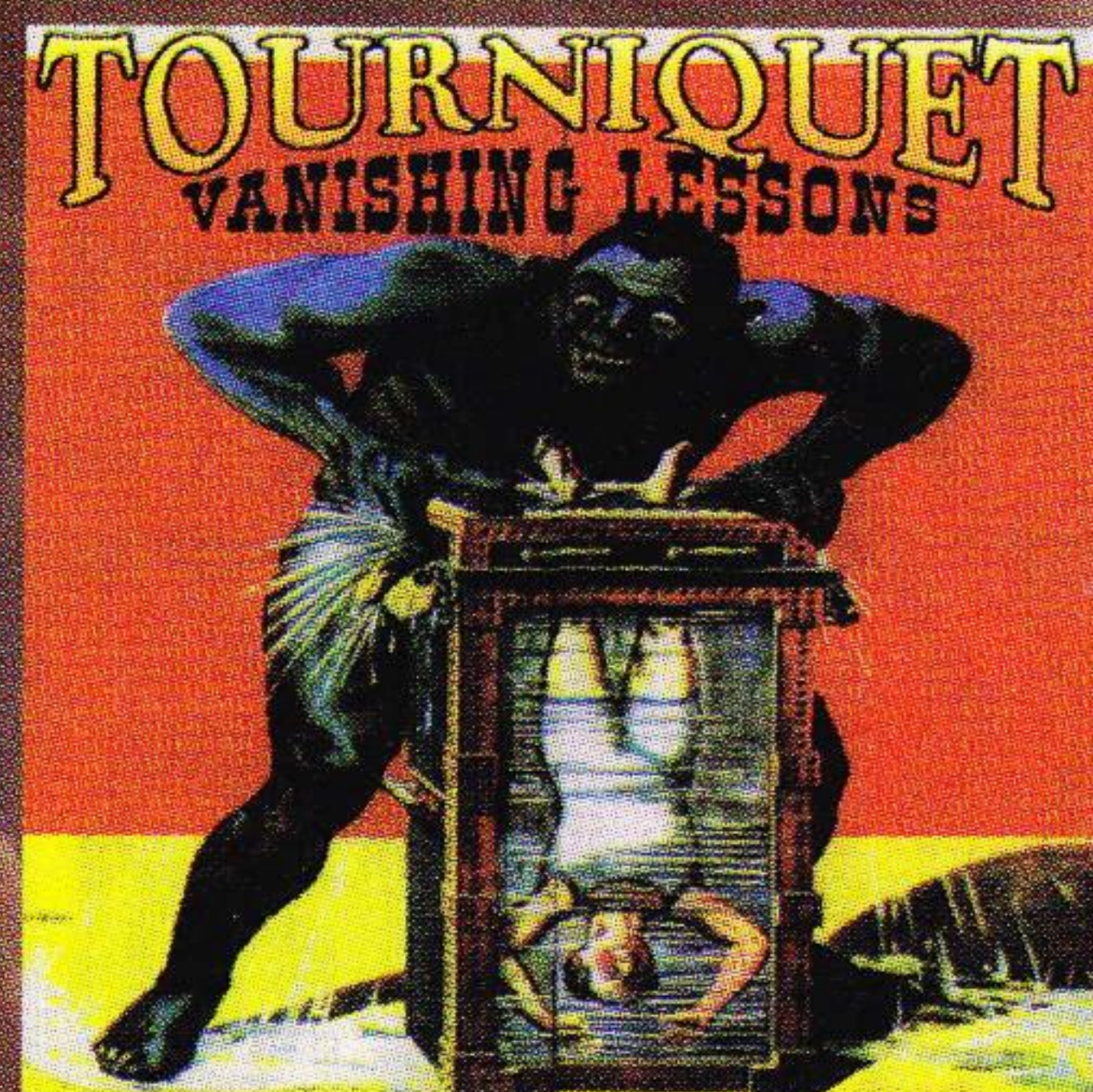
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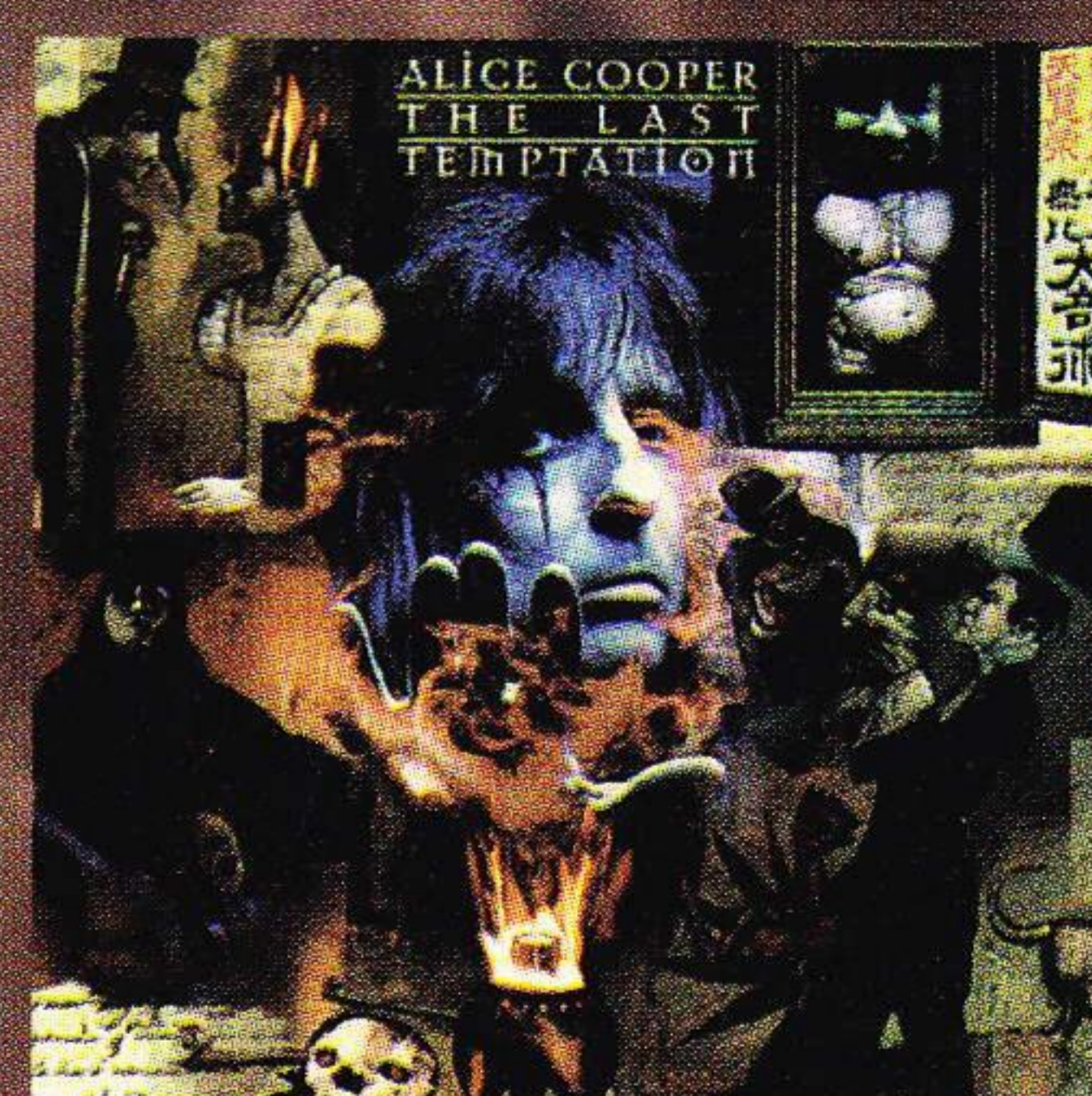
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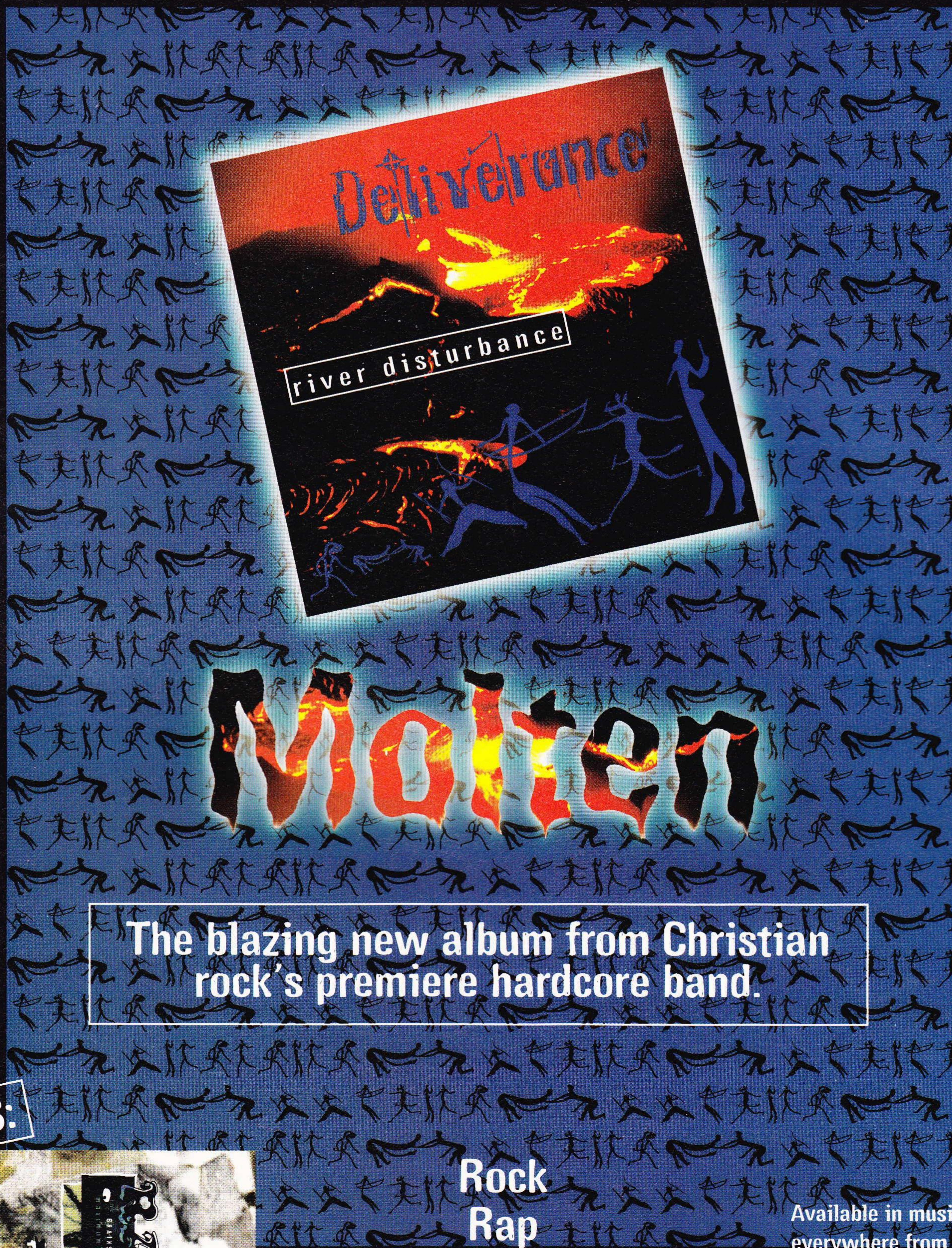


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What Love/Hate Sez:

Anyone with a Z - Rock affiliate in their town has undoubtedly heard Love/Hate's single "Spinning Wheel," which is getting the band lots of airplay. Not too long ago, drummer Joey Gold hoisted his lead vocalist, Jizzy Pearl, on a cross that hung from the Hollywood sign. Three weeks into a tour at the time of this interview, a fried Joey Gold spoke with us about this stunt and other subjects that naturally came up.

WHY DON'T YOU TELL ME ABOUT THE TIME YOU HUNG JIZZY ON THAT CROSS?

"It was actually something we've been wanting to do for a long time," explains Joey. "We built this 30-foot cross and actually practiced it downtown in our studio a couple times -- a couple dry runs. Then we went up to the Hollywood sign. We went up at about four in the morning under darkness, hauled it up there. At around noon we went up there and assembled it real quick, latched a pulley on the back and hoisted it up and crucified him. We actually rented a helicopter and shot some video footage. At one point it was live in L.A. on every single station. It was pretty funny. We did a lot of touring after that."

WHY HAD YOU BEEN WANTING TO DO IT FOR SO LONG?

"Well, we had done two records for Columbia (*Blacked Out In The Red Room*, *Wasted In America*) and the publicity office told us we needed to do something newsworthy, 'Something we can write about,' and so we did. It really helped. There was some symbolism behind it as well. A lot of people move to Hollywood for the dream. The town kind of uses you in the process. People could identify with Jizzy crucifying himself on that Hollywood sign."

WHAT ARE YOUR FEELINGS ABOUT JESUS CHRIST?

"Personally? Well, personally, I'm not a Christian, so I have no feelings one way or the other."

HAVE YOU EVER CONSIDERED SOME OF HIS CLAIMS WHEN HE WAS ON THE EARTH, AND HE TOLD JEWISH PEOPLE, "I AM THE WAY, THE TRUTH AND THE LIFE, AND NO ONE COMES TO THE FATHER BUT BY ME?"

"Uh, yeah. I've thought a lot about that, actually. It makes me angry. I feel like Christianity is the only religion



that makes that claim. It doesn't matter how good you are, your actions, or your intentions or anything, if you don't follow Christ you're not gonna be saved."

DO YOU REALLY THINK THAT CHRISTIANITY CLAIMS THAT JEWS CANNOT BE SAVED?

"Yeah. I think that's a fundamental tenant of Christianity, as far as I understand. The only way to be saved is to follow Jesus."

I'VE NEVER KNOWN A JEW TO NOT SAY THAT JEHOVAH WAS THE ONLY TRUE GOD, AND THAT YOU COULD BE A BUDDHIST AND IT'S OKAY. I'VE NEVER REALLY COME ACROSS A JEW THAT'S SAID, ACCORDING TO THEIR BELIEFS, THAT JEHOVAH IS NOT THE ONLY ONE, TRUE GOD, AND THAT IF YOU WORSHIP ANOTHER GOD, THAT'S OKAY.

"First of all, the word for Jehovah in Hebrew isn't Jesus. They're two different things in Hebrew. Jehovah isn't Jesus. But, yeah. Judaism is a tolerant religion. Good people go to Heaven and bad people don't."

WELL, DOESN'T THE TEN COMMANDMENTS SAY, "LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL OF YOUR HEART, SOUL, AND MIND..."

"Absolutely."

"...AND HAVE NO OTHER GODS BEFORE ME?" BUDDHA OR ALLAH WOULD BE ANOTHER GOD, WOULDN'T IT?

"But Buddha is not a god.

Buddha is enlightenment. Allah is just the Arabic translation for God. It's not like another god. The one-ness. Judaism teaches that God is God, whether it's referred to as God or Jehovah."

I HOPE YOU ENJOY GETTING INTO THIS A BIT.

"Oh, I don't mind. Sometimes people can get touchy."

WELL, IF BUDDHISM TEACHES THAT YOU ARE A GOD, AND OTHER RELIGIONS TEACH THAT YOU ARE A GOD AND THAT YOU, YOURSELF, ARE DIVINE; WHEREAS JUDAISM TEACHES THE DIFFERENCE THAT GOD IS HIMSELF AND THAT HE IS LIKE NO OTHER. SO, TO ME, I WOULD THINK THAT JUDAISM IS ALSO DIAMETRICALLY OPPOSED WITH OTHER RELIGIONS.

"Well, it may be diametrically opposed to other religions, but it's a religion of teaching, a religion of learning. Again, I don't buy that, 'If you don't accept Jesus Christ as your personal savior, you will be damned -- regardless of your actions or anything.'"

WELL, GETTING BACK TO THE ORIGINAL QUESTION THAT STARTED US ON THIS, I ASKED ABOUT JESUS' CLAIM TO BE THE ONLY WAY. AND, UH, FROM MY PERSPECTIVE, IT'S NOT ONLY CHRISTIANITY'S CLAIM, BUT CHRIST HIMSELF'S CLAIM. HISTORICALLY... SOME PEOPLE CAN SAY THAT CHRIST DIDN'T

Photo by Neil Zlozower

EVEN EXIST, OR THAT THE BIBLE IS A BUNCH OF LIES, BUT HISTORICALLY THERE'S EVIDENCE THAT CHRIST WAS HERE AND, IF WE BELIEVE THE HISTORICAL ACCOUNT IN THE BIBLE THAT HE WAS KILLED BY JEWS OUT OF ANGER AND THEN HE WAS KILLED BECAUSE HE MADE HIMSELF OUT TO BE GOD.

"He was killed by the Romans."

RIGHT, HE WAS KILLED BY THE ROMANS, WHO WERE IN AUTHORITY OVER THE JEWS, BUT THE HIGH PRIESTS WERE THE ONES THAT WANTED HIM DEAD. SO, CHRIST WAS ACTUALLY CLAIMING, IF YOU LOOK AT THAT CONTEXT, TO BE GOD IN THE FLESH, AND HIS CLAIM TO BE THE ONLY WAY WOULD BE SOMETHING THAT CAME FROM HIS MOUTH; WHEREAS CHRISTIANS, OR PEOPLE WHO HAVE FOLLOWED CHRIST DOWN THROUGH THE AGES HAVE ADOPTED WHAT HE SAID TO BE TRUE. SO, THEREFORE, IT COMES BACK TO WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT HIS CLAIM?

"Well, I mean, the first thing, I wouldn't deny he existed. To me personally, he was someone who walked the earth as a mortal and had probably more of an impact on the planet than anyone else. As far as what you were saying about those quotes coming from his mouth, him saying, 'I am God in the flesh.' That would have been blasphemy. There were others who apparently claimed to be God, like King Herod, who on their deathbed they acknowledged that they've offended. Keep in mind again when you say, 'The Bible this,' and 'The Bible that,' that there are two different Bibles. Of course, Christianity maintains that both the New and Old Testament are the Bible, whereas Judaism maintains that the Old Testament is the Bible."

WELL, IF YOU COULD FOLLOW THIS LOGIC, IF CHRIST SAID THOSE WORDS, AND IT WOULD'VE BEEN BLASPHEMOUS AND THEREFORE, AT ONE POINT HE SAID, "BEFORE ABRAHAM WAS, I AM," AND THEY PICKED UP STONES TO KILL HIM, BECAUSE HE WAS BLASPHEMING IF HE WASN'T TELLING THE TRUTH THAT HE WAS GOD. AND A LOT OF PEOPLE CALL JESUS A GOOD JEW OR A GOOD TEACHER OR A GOOD PROPHET...

"Right."

BUT, IF HE WAS LYING, HE'S A LIAR AND HE'S NOT A GOOD

PROPHET, AND YOU CAN'T CALL HIM A GOOD PROPHET IF HE WAS LYING. YOU COULD POSSIBLY CALL HIM A SICK, MENTALLY ILL PERSON, OR A BAD LIAR, A BLASPHEMER, OR YOU WOULD HAVE TO SAY HE WAS TELLING THE TRUTH. AND SO, I HEAR PEOPLE SAY, "HE WAS A GOOD TEACHER AND A GOOD PROPHET, AND HE SAID SOME NICE THINGS," BUT THAT DOESN'T REALLY JIBE WITH ME, BECAUSE IF HE WAS TELLING THE TRUTH, THEN HE IS GOD, AND IF HE WAS LYING, THEN HE'S NOT A GOOD PERSON, HE'S A BAD PERSON.

"Yeah, but it doesn't have to be one or the other. There were people back then, who... for instance, Julius Caesar, who was thought of as a god after he died. He was thought of as a great man, who conquered this and that. Alexander the Great, by the way, who was certainly one of the great men -- he was an epileptic and when people like that would fall and go into a seizure, people thought he was talking to God. Strange things that they couldn't explain, which we now know as epilepsy or mental illness or whatever. For a lack of a better word, for a heavy, heavy character that it is possible that his thinking could have been clouded. There is no doubt that he was good at heart, (with) good intentions, he preached well, and everything like that. It is possible that either he was full of himself or believed himself to be this messiah that was written about in the Old Testament and was wrong. I'm not saying that's what happened, I'm saying that's a possibility. It's not so cut and dry, like either he was telling the truth or he was lying. You know what I'm saying?"

YEAH. ONE WAY TO PUT THAT IS EITHER OF THREE OPTIONS: LIAR, LUNATIC, OR LORD.

"Or let's not say lunatic. Let's just say mistaken. Let's say he was a great man who had many followers and let's say he was truly, for lack of better words, 'touched by God' -- meaning, not just gifted, but someone like Moses, someone who is kind of beyond in a way. It's entirely possible that he was mistaken... He was such a great man and that was his one mistake with feeling that he was more than mortal."

HAVE YOU EVER WRESTLED WITH THE QUESTION ABOUT HIM BEING A MESSIAH? WHAT WOULD BE YOUR ANSWER AS TO WHY HE WAS NOT THE MESSIAH?

"You know, I wish I had... I get into this every now and then, and I wish I could... the only thing that comes into mind now is one common mistranslation. It was translated into the Greek and then into the Latin and then into the King James Bible that Jesus was to be born of a virgin, or the immaculate conception and all that. But, the original Hebrew does not say that. The word means 'young girl,' meaning the messiah is to be born of a young girl. But, when it got translated from the Hebrew into the Greek, they translated it from young girl into virgin. Then it got translated into the Latin and then it got translated into the King James Bible and then therefore the immaculate conception and that whole thing arises from a simple mistranslation of one word, which does not mean virgin."

"Another argument against Jesus being the messiah is that wars did not end and peace did not come to the earth when he came. According to the Old Testament, when the Messiah comes, peace on earth will reign."

I'VE NEVER THOUGHT ABOUT THAT ANGLE. I'VE THOUGHT ABOUT THE WORD VIRGIN, AND WHAT I'VE HEARD ON THAT IS THAT THE HEBREW WORD CAN MEAN EITHER VIRGIN OR YOUNG MAIDEN, BUT IT DOESN'T SAY EITHER OR... IT DOESN'T SAY WHICH IT IS.

"Right. There's a lot of words like that which can have a double meaning and stuff. To a certain extent, you're right. It is open to interpretation."

THAT ANGLE IS KIND OF A "WHY I DON'T BELIEVE THE NEW TESTAMENT" ANSWER, VERSES THE OTHER ANSWER YOU GAVE, WHICH WAS MORE ALONG THE LINES OF "WELL, THIS IS A QUALIFICATION THAT THE OLD TESTAMENT SAYS HE'S SUPPOSED TO HAVE AND I DON'T SEE HIM HAVING IT."

"Right."

WHAT DO YOU SEE WHEN YOU LOOK AT, LIKE ISAIAH 53 AND 55, WHERE IT TALKS ABOUT THE SUFFERING SERVANT WHO WILL COME AND BE KILLED AND BY HIS WOUNDS YOU WILL BE HEALED? HAS ANYONE EVER PRESENTED THAT TO YOU AND SAID, "THIS IS SPEAKING OF CHRIST?"

"Uh, yeah. Again, then there's interpretations of that..."

IT'S ALWAYS FASCINATED ME. I'VE ALWAYS WANTED TO REALLY HAVE CONVERSATIONS LIKE THIS WITH JEWISH PEOPLE, BECAUSE I'M

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THE SAME



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REAL FASCINATED WITH THE OLD TESTAMENT, BECAUSE FROM MY PERSPECTIVE, THERE'S A LOT OF PICTURES OF CHRIST IN THE OLD TESTAMENT, LIKE WHEN ABRAHAM OFFERED ISAAC UP...

"Right."

IT'S LIKE A PICTURE OF GOD OFFERING UP HIS SON, AND THERE WAS NO LAMB TO SACRIFICE AFTER HE BROUGHT THE KNIFE DOWN, AND IT WAS LIKE, "DON'T KILL HIM," AND GOD PROVIDED THE LAMB IN THE THORNS. THEN THERE'S LIKE ADAM AND EVE, WHERE EVE WAS DECEIVED INTO SINNING, BUT ADAM KNEW IT WAS WRONG AND HE KNEW THAT EVE WOULD HAVE TO DIE AND BE PUNISHED AND YOU COULD ATTRIBUTE THIS, THAT HE KNOWINGLY TOOK ON SIN TO BE ONE WITH HIS WIFE, OR ELSE THEY WOULD HAVE BEEN ETERNALLY SEPARATED, BECAUSE HE WOULD'VE STAYED PERFECT OR WHATEVER.

"That's interesting."

AND THEN THERE'S THE PSALMS, LIKE IN PSALM 22 IT TALKS ABOUT, "MY GOD, MY GOD, WHY HAVE YOU FORSAKEN ME? MY HEART MELTS LIKE WAX... THEY DIVIDE MY GARMENT UP AMONGST THEM." DIFFERENT THINGS, LIKE, CHRIST SAID THAT WHILE HE WAS ON THE CROSS."

"Right, right."

SO, PERSONALLY, FROM WHERE I COME FROM -- AND I CAN'T SIT HERE AND CONVINCE YOU ON THE PHONE TO BELIEVE THE WAY I BELIEVE -- BUT I COULD DO WITHOUT THE NEW TESTAMENT. OF COURSE, I DON'T HAVE TO, BUT I COULD DO WITHOUT IT, BECAUSE, TO ME, ALL THE SECRETS OF SALVATION AND ALL OF CHRIST AND HIS PLAN OF SALVATION IS ALL IN THE OLD TESTAMENT.

"That's very interesting. That's the first real time I've heard that. I think that's interesting."

YEAH, IT REALLY MAKES THE BIBLE EXCITING FOR ME, BECAUSE I SEE A LOT OF STUFF LIKE THAT. LIKE, ONE OTHER INSTANCE THAT REALLY THRILLS ME IS (THAT) DAVID HAD A TABERNACLE AFTER MOSES' TABERNACLE. YOU KNOW, MOSES' TABERNACLE WAS TORN DOWN AND THEY TOOK THE ARK OF THE COVENANT...

"Right."

... WHICH WAS LIKE A REPRESENTATION OF GOD. IT'S ANOTHER PICTURE OF CHRIST, BECAUSE INSIDE THE ARK WAS THE TABLETS OF STONE WITH AARON'S ROD THAT BUDDED AND THE JAR OF MANNA, BUT THE LAW IS LIKE GOD'S LAW. YOU CANNOT STAND BEFORE IT AND LIVE. IT'S LIKE WHEN THE PHILISTINES TOOK THE ARK AND THEY TOOK THE SEAT OFF. THEY WERE EXPOSED TO THE LAW, BUT WHAT'S ON TOP OF THE SEAT IS CALLED THE MERCY SEAT.

"Right."

AND IT'S LIKE CHRIST -- HE IS BETWEEN US AND THE LAW, AND IF WE'RE EXPOSED JUST TO GOD'S JUDGMENT, WE'LL BE VANQUISHED, YOU KNOW, BECAUSE 60,000 PHILISTINES WERE KILLED INSTANTLY. IT'S LIKE A SUPER BOWL CROWD DEAD.

"He's like a go-between is what you're saying?"

YEAH.

"Interesting..."

ANYWAY, AT ONE POINT THE ARK WAS STOLEN BY THE PHILISTINES AND THEY ALL DIED WHEN THEY OPENED IT UP. THEY BROUGHT IT BACK INTO ISRAEL AND DAVID BUILT HIS OWN TABERNACLE WITH IT. FOR ONE THING, THE ARK IS SUCH A SERIOUS OBJECT THAT YOU DON'T SCREW AROUND WITH IT, OR GOD WILL KILL YA, BASICALLY.

"Right."

SO, WE HAVE TO BELIEVE THAT DAVID WAS DIRECTED BY GOD TO BUILD HIS OWN TABERNACLE, OR ELSE GOD WOULD'VE WASTED HIM, AND HIS TABERNACLE DIDN'T HAVE AN INNER COURT, OUTER COURT AND HOLY OF HOLIES. IT WAS A GIANT TENT PITCHED, AND THEY HAD A WHOLE COMPANY OF PRIESTS -- NOT JUST ONE ONCE A YEAR. THESE GUYS HAD MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS, AND THEY ALL WENT IN THERE AND THEY SURROUNDED THE ARK OF THE COVENANT AND THEY WORSHIPED GOD WITH MUSIC AND SONGS, AND GOD'S SPIRIT CAME DOWN AND FILLED THAT WHOLE TEMPLE UP. SO, SOME OF THOSE SAME PRIESTS WERE FORMER MOSAIC PRIESTS, AND IT HAD TO FREAK THEM OUT THAT THEY WERE ALL IN THE HOLY OF

HOLIES, PROBABLY 30 OR 40 OF 'EM AT ONCE. AND, TO ME, THAT'S LIKE A PICTURE OF THE CHURCH.

"Right."

WHEREAS, WHEN CHRIST WAS CRUCIFIED, IT SAYS THE VEIL WAS TORN IN THE TEMPLE, WHICH LED INTO THE HOLY OF HOLIES, AND, LIKE, THE CHRISTIAN BELIEF IS THAT NOW MAN HAS ACCESS TO GOD BECAUSE WE'VE BEEN SPRINKLED WITH BLOOD. THE SACRIFICE HAS BEEN PAID. DAVID'S TABERNACLE IS LIKE A PICTURE OF THE CHURCH, BECAUSE NOW THE CHURCH CAN NOW ALL GO INTO THE PRESENCE OF GOD, BECAUSE OF THE MERCY OF CHRIST AND WE HAVE ACCESS TO HIM NOW. STUFF LIKE THAT IS REALLY INTERESTING TO ME.

"Yeah, I don't know. Have you ever been to that part of the world?"

NO. I REALLY WOULD LIKE TO GO AND CHECK IT OUT.

"Amazing. It's amazing when you actually go to the wall of Solomon's Temple. It's a fascinating part of the world."

I'VE NEVER BEEN THERE. SO, YOU HAD A CHANCE TO TOUR IT WHEN YOU WERE YOUNG, OR AS A BAND?

"Not with the band, just with my mom and dad. It was amazing. We went to the nativity spot and all that stuff."

WHAT WAS IT LIKE AS A FAMILY? WERE YOUR PARENTS LIKE, "THIS IS WHAT CHRISTIANS BELIEVE, THIS IS A CHRISTIAN THING, LET'S GO SEE IT?"

"Well, again, we were just really checking out the normal tourist things. Well, this has been a different kind of interview!"

YEAH. IS THERE ANYTHING ABOUT YOUR MUSIC THAT YOU INCORPORATE SPIRITUAL IDEAS?

"Not really. If anything, we've found humor and anything to keep it light. You know, we like people to have a good time when they listen to our music. Speaking about spiritual things . . . we've never written any political things, like talking about the rain forests or something, we've always kind of kept it to a good time rock and roll."

ARE YOU GOING TO BE AT THIS YEAR'S FOUNDATIONS FORUM?

"Will be. Let's hook up. We'll be hanging out. Thanks very much." HM

1994 Reader's Poll

1994 has been an extremely good year for Christian hard music, and now it's time to determine which artists made the biggest impression on you -- the Heaven's Metal reader.

Thanks to Star Song Records, who answered many a prayer by releasing The Extremely Loud Guitar Book, we will be giving away 15 copies of The Extremely Loud Guitar Book and companion Compact Disc. This random drawing will take place on December 31st, so send in your ballots before Christmas!

1) Favorite Singer

2) Favorite Bassist

3) Favorite Drummer

4) Favorite Guitarist ("Guitar Hero" Award)

5) Favorite Album

6) Favorite Live Band

7) Favorite Lyricist

8) Favorite Band

9) Favorite Producer

10) Favorite New Band

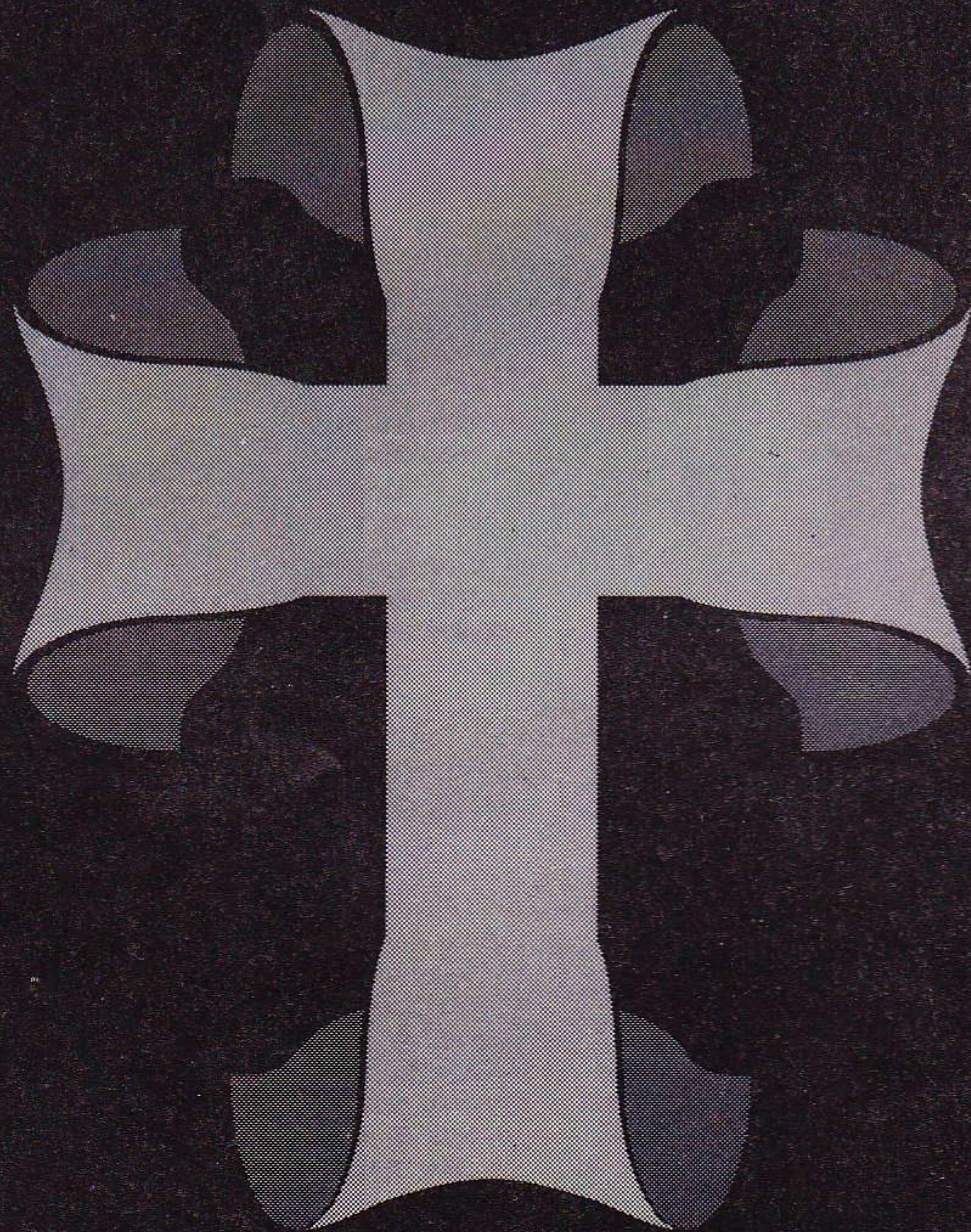
11) Favorite Unsigned/Indie Band

12) Favorite Album Cover

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Clip (or photocopy) and send to: HM Reader's Poll, PO Box 17367, Austin, TX 78760-7367

David Benson



Holy Psychotherapy

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"The music is first class metal and the production is first class as well."

-Jeff Lot, HEAVEN'S METAL MAGAZINE

"David Benson has everything it takes to make a significant impact in the music scene. He has an ear for power metal hooks, challenge the status quo of both nation and religious pretenders, and you just can't get away from that voice-- an uncanny to some guy with the Initials O. O. who barks at the moon. Look for this album to skyrocket into the top rotations of radio stations and stereo systems around the world."

- Marc Carpenter, THE CUTTING EDGE

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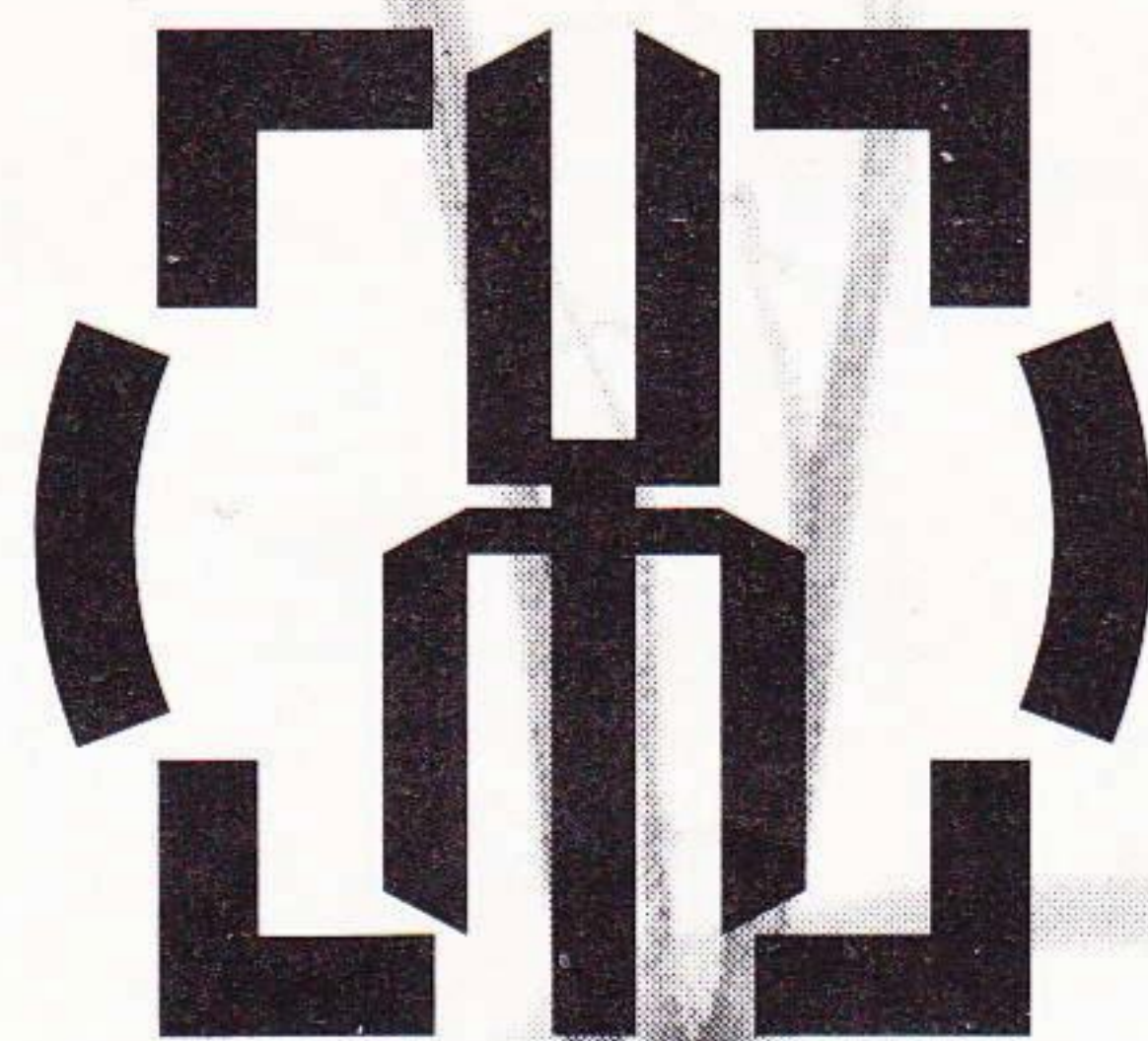


HE DIDN'T have time to be afraid.

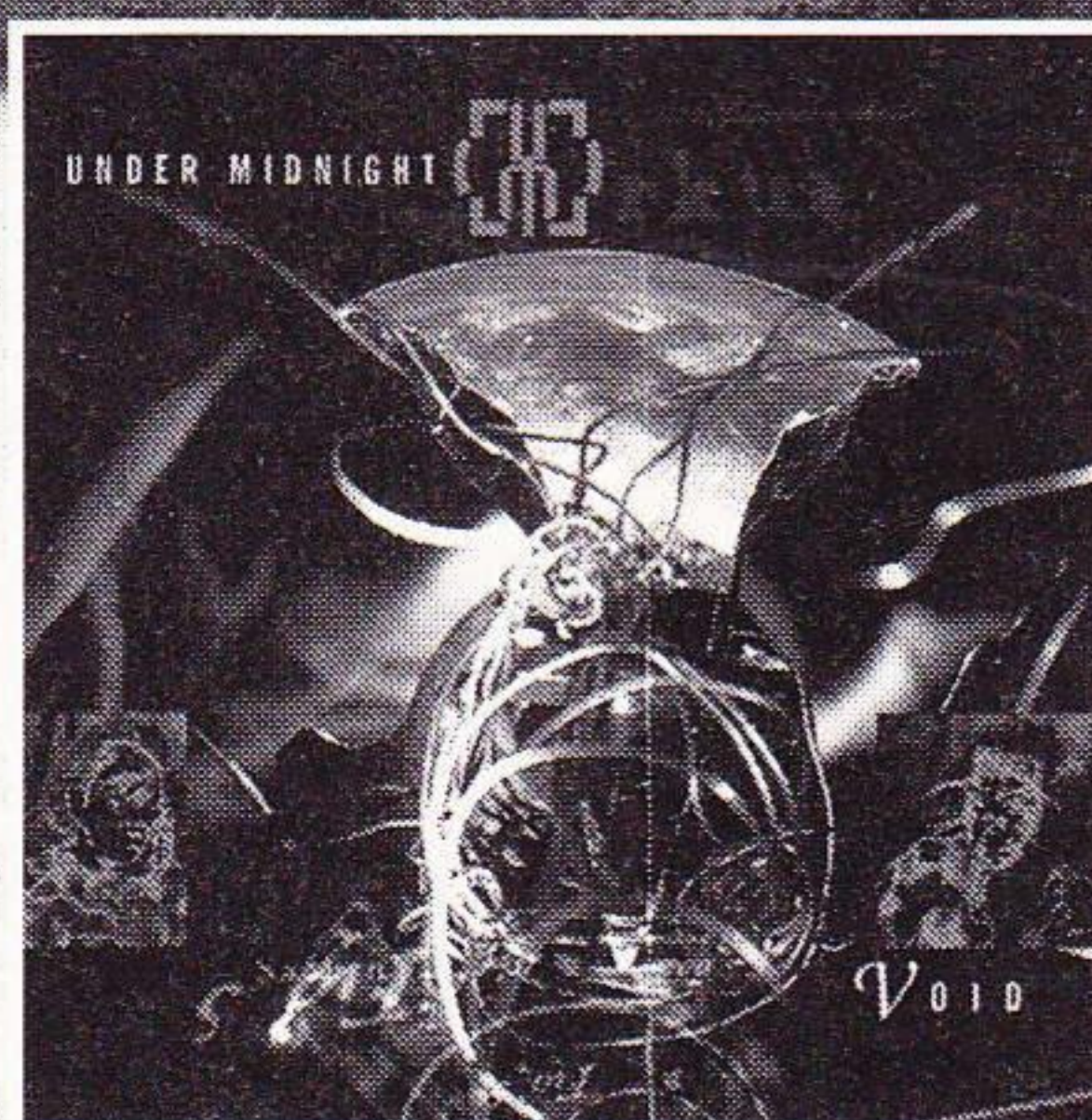
His sluggish synapses barely had time to register
the fact that he was *flying* before he punctured the
brilliant blackness and found himself at home
and yet...

so *very far* from where he had started.

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METAL TRACKS

Guardian are going to film videos for its latest release, *SwingSwangSwung*. Meanwhile, the band will be opening several dates on the current Steve Taylor *Squinternational Tour*.

Former **Tourniquet** vocalist **Guy Ritter** is looking for some unusual musicians for an upcoming recording project he's working on. Guy also has plans for more than just recording. Those interested may write him at: PO Box 4207, Burbank, CA 91503.

The rock winners in America's Christian Music Awards were **Petra**, for both favorite rock group/duo and favorite rock CD -- *Wake Up Call*. All the nominated bands (**Guardian**, **Legend Seven**, **Petra**, **PFR**, and **White Heart**) had performances taped for broadcast on the awards show. Petra has re-signed with Word Records. The band did the re-signing with a party at the Hard Rock Cafe in Nashville. Memorabilia from Petra is displayed there, as well as in the Hard Rock, Atlanta.

Barren Cross vocalist **Mike Lee** is keeping himself busy these days. He's helping musicians and young bands with recording projects, song arranging, writing, and vocals. His new band, **Bare Bones**, has recorded a new album, which is being shopped and will be available soon. Hereports that Barren Cross will be on TBN's "Leon and Friends" show in early November, where they will do an interview and perform some songs -- so get your VCR's ready! Those interested in Mike's recording help can reach him at (916) 877-1253.

Grrr recordS recorded all five hours of the '94 Cornerstone blues jam. They'll whittle it down to a one-hour album, featuring **Glenn Kaiser**, **Larry Howard**, **Darrell Mansfield**, with accompaniment from guitarist **Stu Heiss** and keys, drums, and sax from the same Chicago



PETRA

musicians who backed Glenn up on *Spontaneous Combustion* -- the same album that's now getting some mainstream distribution in the Chicago area. The new **REZ** album, called *Lament*, is currently being recorded, set for release in June '95. This one is a concept album of sorts, telling a story through the lyrics. Expect some stylistic changes...

Michael and Marilyn Bloodgood are happy to announce the birth of Mark David Bloodgood, who weighed in at 9 pounds 10 ounces at birth. Michael started his solo career this fall -- a little over a year after Bloodgood performed its last show. Michael plans on performing some of his new solo material, as well as covering some Bloodgood tunes. Former bandmate, **Paul Roraback**, plays drums with Michael, along with **Pete Stewart** on guitar, and **Bob Van Feldt** on keyboards. Work on his solo album will begin this fall, with an expected album release by next summer.

Nonpoint Factor recently had a gig opening for **Over Kill** in West Palm Beach, Florida.

One very cool November release will be the **Magdalen**

unplugged album, called *The Dirt*. Another cool one is the *She's The Queen* EP from **Starflyer 59**.

The long-awaited new **Jerusalem** album, *Prophet*, is now being made available in the U.S. via Diamante Distribution (licensed through R.E.X.).

Mikey of Sometime Sunday also celebrates with his wife the birth of a baby. Sometime Sunday is still looking for a drummer. They recently won a spot on the Ticketmaster Showcase. A good drummer who wants to join this excellent band could drop his demo, photo, bio and all that jazz in the mail and send it to: 14608 SE Stephens, Portland OR 97233. All copies of the first pressings of Sometime Sunday's debut album have sold out. The second pressing features a 20-minute (unlisted) bonus cut, which features studio chatter, the band going through a drive-thru, and one song. This little gem is unmarked, so you won't know you've got it until you play it. The band goes into Bad Animals Studio (where Soundgarden did their latest) in January to record its new disc.

New Tooth & Nail band **Havalina** is described as a band

with six or seven members who wear suits and ties, look like the Blues Brothers, and use big silver microphones. Word has it that they've gotta be seen to be believed.

Love war and the **Jeff Scheetz Band** would both like to express their regrets in having to pull out of the *Testify '94 Tour*, "and to apologize to any fans who were disappointed by our absence. We were certainly looking forward to playing all over this great country, but without going into great

detail, we just couldn't continue playing under such financially strapping conditions. Again, our apologies, but don't worry, you'll be seeing us soon."

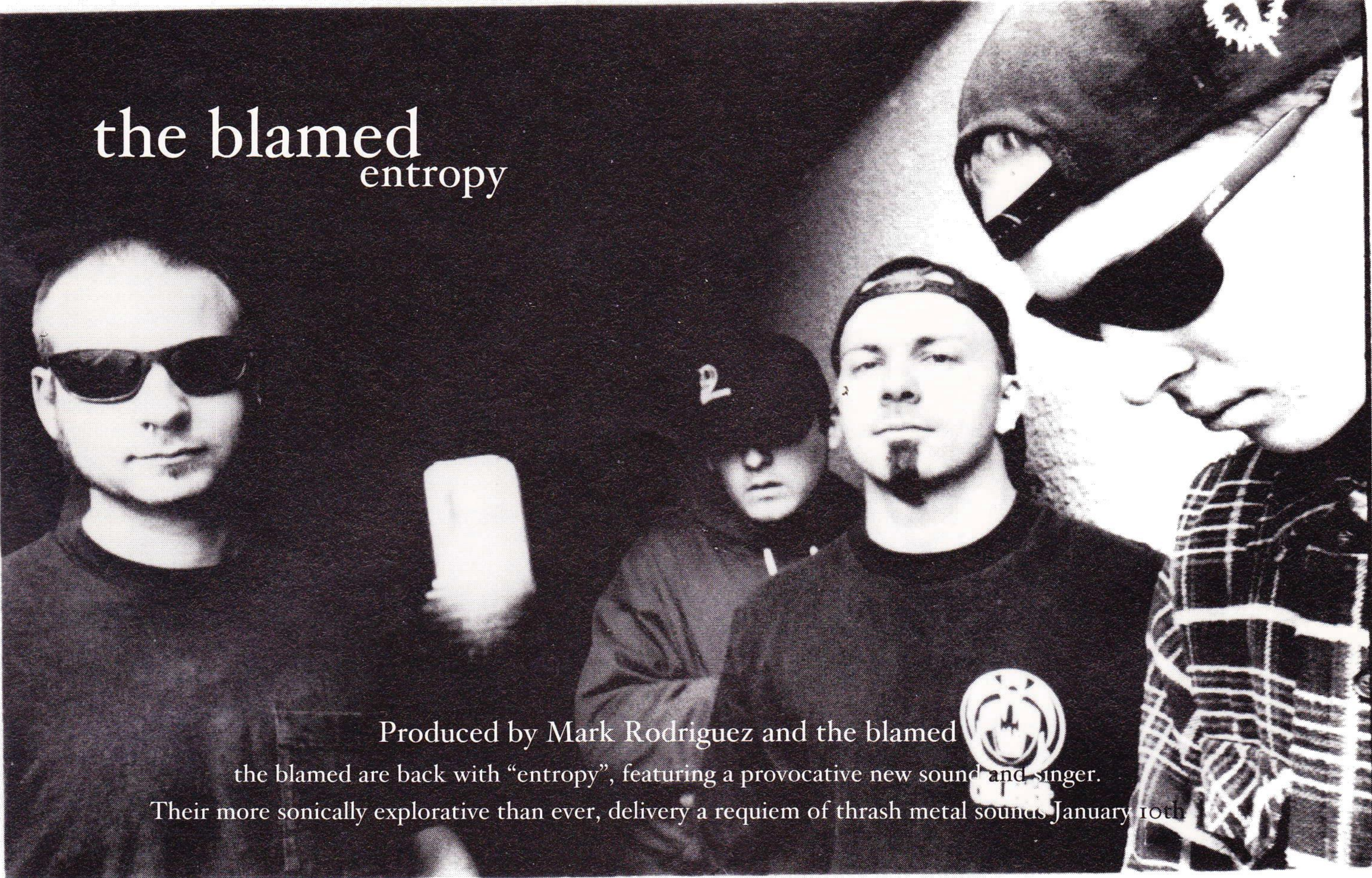
Luxury is another new band to Tooth & Nail, described as "a dreamy, alternative, punk, pop sound."

Sardonyx is officially on hiatus as of August 27th. Their latest newsletter tells us that the guys have decided to put the band on hold while they focus on other matters.

WNCB is a new 24-hour Christian CHR radio station to hit the Twin City area of Minneapolis and St. Paul. For more info, call (612) 472-9262.

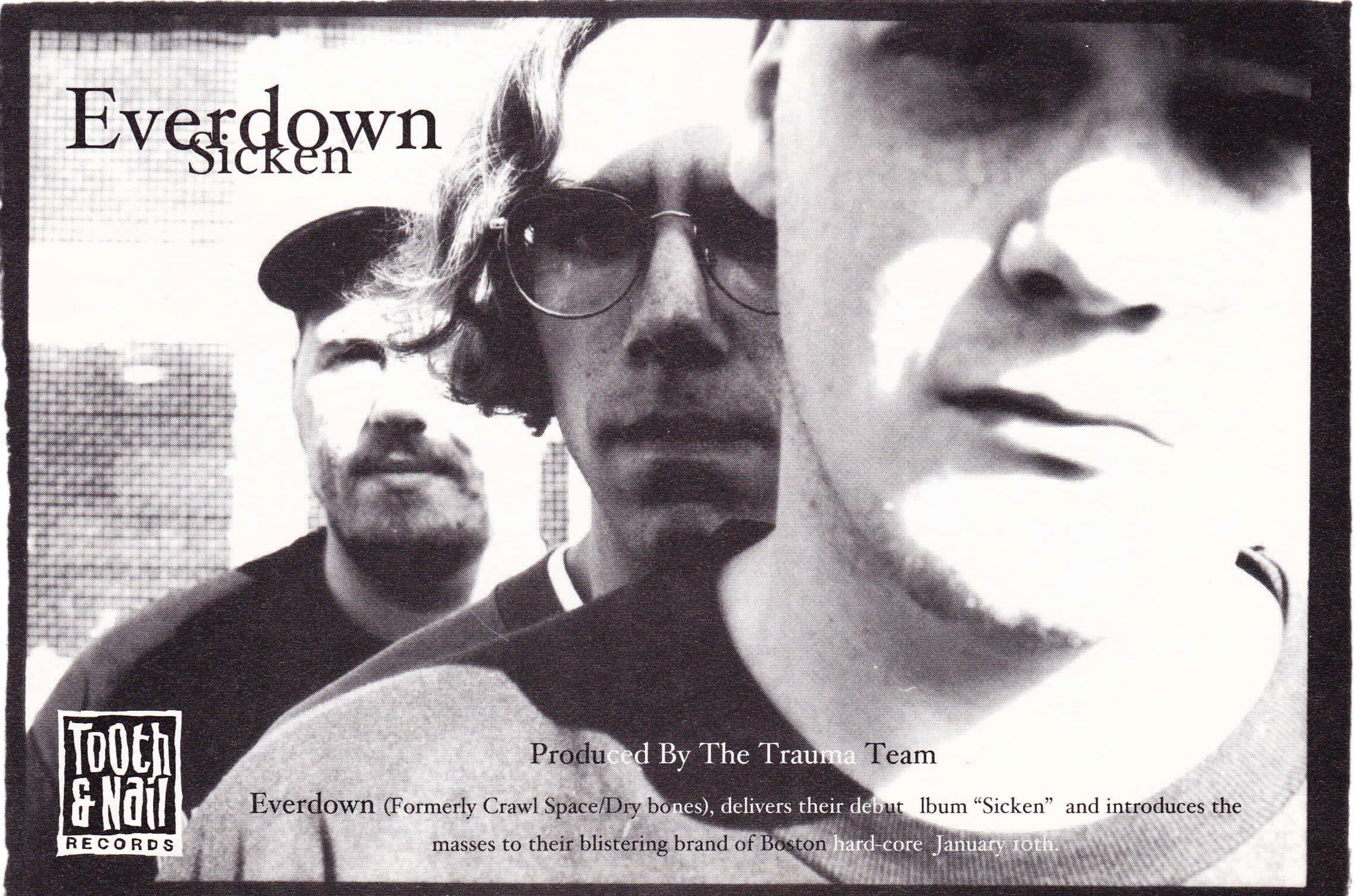
Focused have a new guitarist and drummer -- Andrew and Chris.

Ultimatum will be going into the studio in October to start work on their second release, currently titled *Symphonic Extremities*. **Paul Scozzafavo** of **The Moshketeers** will be working with the band in the studio to help in the mixing and production. The band is also looking for a new bassist, since **Mike Rickaby** left to start a new band with a heavier style. Interested parties should write: Ultimatum,



the blamed entropy

Produced by Mark Rodriguez and the blamed
the blamed are back with "entropy", featuring a provocative new sound and singer.
Their more sonically explorative than ever, delivery a requiem of thrash metal sounds January 10th



Everdown Sicken

Produced By The Trauma Team

Everdown (Formerly Crawl Space/Dry bones), delivers their debut album "Sicken" and introduces the masses to their blistering brand of Boston hard-core January 10th.

**TOOTH
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RECORDS

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"The Docks" is a progressive-minded Christian club in Northern Colorado that seeks to give artistic platform to quality-minded singer-songwriters, bands, and various touring groups. Bands interested in being booked send a bio, photo, tape or CD and general promo pack to: Profile Music and Events Services, 2100 West Drake Rd, Ste. 192, Ft. Collins, CO 80526.

On the industry side of things, R.E.X. Music has finalized a distribution agreement with Platinum Entertainment's new Christian distribution system -- Light Distribution. It'll be headquartered in Nashville and begin distribution with Light Records and CGI Records, and picking up R.E.X., Grrr, Storyville, and Street Level Records in January. New projects from **Kerry Livgren** and **Circle of Dust** will be some of the first albums to be released under this new agreement.

Michael Sweet has filmed a new video for the tune "Ain't No Safe Way," which is followed by a 30-second public service announcement by Michael concerning abstinence. The video will be sent to over 2,500 youth groups, 1,000 Christian bookstores, and over 250 broadcast outlets.

Fleming & John, those amazing artists that attracted so much attention for their cut on the *Steve Taylor Tribute Album*, have signed a deal with R.E.X.

A few stores have returned **Blenderhead** product due to "controversial packaging." Tooth & Nail owner, Brandon Ebel, states, "We stand behind our product. We don't feel there's anything biblically wrong with it. If kids can't get it in their stores, they can get it via mail-order at: Tooth & Nail Merchandising, PO Box 12698, Seattle, WA 98111-4698.

20/20 Blind recently offered this description of its approach to music: "Each and every one of us in this band has one purpose -- to be the best we can be. Playing mainstream concerts, we see groups that push various agendas, whether political, envi-

ronmental, or ecological. We don't have a stance or platform that the band endorses. Jesus is not an agenda for the band. He's our life. We like to have a good time, and for us to do that, we have to make the Truth known and accessible to our fans. That's part of our shows and that's always been a part of our band. We believe that Christ and His teachings offer an individual a life of fulfillment here on earth and that's the life we choose as individuals." The band's booking agent is Connolly & Associates. For booking info, write: PO Box 3241, Myrtle Beach, SC 29578-3241. (800) 236-6742.

Tooth & Nail have signed **Everdown** (formerly called Crawlpace, and called Dry Bones before that), who will record with **Kurt Bachman** of the Trauma Team producing.

The Blamed have put ex-Deliverance drummer Jeremy Moffet on lead vocals and seem to be going after an intense heavy new style. (You could see it coming with ex-Crucified member **Jim Chaffin** on drums). The band is going into the Green Room to record its second album. Labelmates **Focused** are going into the studio on November 1st, as is newly signed **Strongarm** (who will record in a Florida studio).

Tourniquet's new album, *Vanishing Lessons*, will be distributed into the mainstream market by Pavement Indie.

The Prayer Chain have been in Nashville working on its follow-up to *Shawl*. Look for it in early '95.

A recent boat cruise in the San Diego harbor turned into a memorable evening of special music and worship when **Deven Berryhill** and **Holland Davis** of Rolltop Records teamed up with **Chris Lizotte** of Metro One and **Sleepy Ray** of New Breed. The cruise was sponsored by several San Diego Calvary Chapels.

A.R.T. Records announces the formation of its new subdivision, Progressive Art Music, which will be dedicated to gothic, ambient, and progressive music. The first release in this new subdivision will be the 7" EP from Bloomington, Illinois act

Civilian, entitled *No Sax & Violins*. Bands wishing to send submissions for this new sublabel may contact Doug E. Johnson at: R.R. #13, Box 66B, Bloomington, IL 61704. In a recent press release, the label defined the genres they will be servicing: Gothic -- Saviour Machine, The Wake; Ambient/Experimental -- Brian Eno, Kong; Progressive -- Gentle Giant, King Crimson, etc. A.R.T. will also be distributing Covenant Music product into Europe, including the new albums by **Crimson Thorn** and **Waterstain**.

God's Pleasure Management, the management of the Dutch thrash/death metal band **Decision-D**, has started a new record label, called Bark Horse Records. The first band on the label, of course, is Decision-D. The band's latest album, *The Last Prostitute*, has been delayed due to the change in labels from Inline/Crypta to Bark Horse. The label's address will be: Postbus 762, 3500 AT Utrecht, The Netherlands. The new album will show a growing emphasis on groove, innovative rhythm patterns, and will take the heaviness of the band into new areas. Some of the new song titles are: "Independent Remorse," "Forsaken," "Women of Injustice," "You Ain't Nothing," "Residence of Dishonor," and "Last Prostitute."

Mortal's new album, *Wake*, is, according to the label's press release, "a call to everyone to look at their lives and see who or what it is they worship. If it's not Jesus Christ, then the call is to wake up."

Avenger has a new address, where all booking inquiries can be made. Write: Kevin Schertell, 7023 Deauville Rd, Jacksonville, FL 32205. (904) 783-6896.

Chris Wicklas is leaving **Mission of Mercy** to devote full time endeavors with **This Train**. Interested drummers must be committed to touring and send demo, bio, and photo to: Mission of Mercy, c/o Etcetera Records, 210 W. Front Street, Wheaton, IL 60187.

Poor Old Lu has finished its sophomore release, called *Sin*. Word has it that this album is more aggressive and edgy. There

will be a special 12-inch promotional vinyl of this project.

Intersound Inc., who has distributed the *Heaven's Metal Video Magazine* and the *Heaven's Metal Hard Music Compilation, Volume One*, has gone through several changes, including a streamlining of its efforts into the Christian bookseller's market. While Intersound recently signed a distribution deal with Benson for its Gospel roster, Heaven's Metal was not included in that deal. If you experience trouble getting any of these Heaven's Metal products in your local store, have them contact Spring Arbor Distributors or us directly. The first single released off the *Hard Music Compilation* is "Desire" by **Latter Reign**.

The New Union club has moved to: 3141 Central Avenue NE in Minneapolis, Minnesota. The sixth annual band tournament starts in January, so bands send in your auditions now.

Last Generation has signed endorsement agreements with ADA Amplification Systems, Digitech, and Washburn Guitars. The band will get product support and advertisement. Currently, there is a sweep of guitar giveaways by Washburn to help promote the group via contests backed by concerts, and radio and bookstore promotional giveaways. If you work at a radio station and haven't heard about this, write: Washburn/LG Giveaway, PO Box 2551, Augusta, GA 30903-2551. The band's album, *Reservation*, is available by calling (706) 860-0034.

Iowa-based **Holy Countdown** is looking for a bassist. Interested players can send their demo to: 422 N. Sheridan, Ottumwa, IA 52501.

Freedom Fest '94 reports a good show of independent bands. **Intercessor**, an East Coast metal band, played with Louisiana's **Pilgrim** (described as early Petra sound), and **Battalion**. Freedom Fest '95 has changed venues. The new location is at Lake Atwood in Atwood, Kansas. For more info, call (800) 825-5483. The festival has space for bands to showcase.

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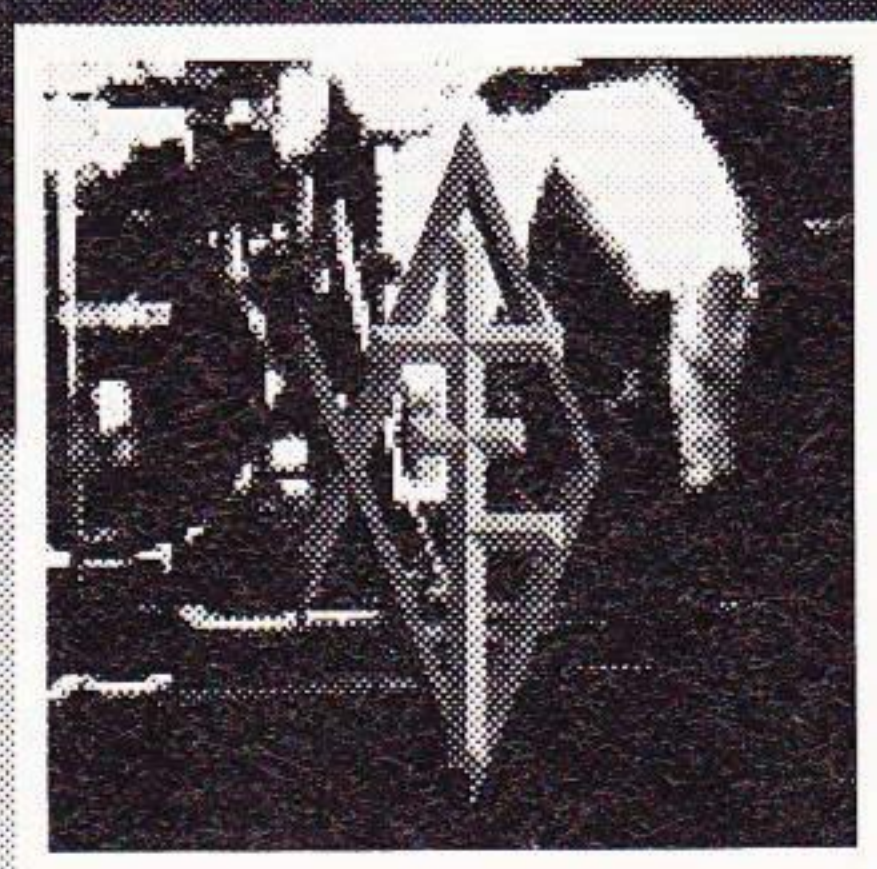


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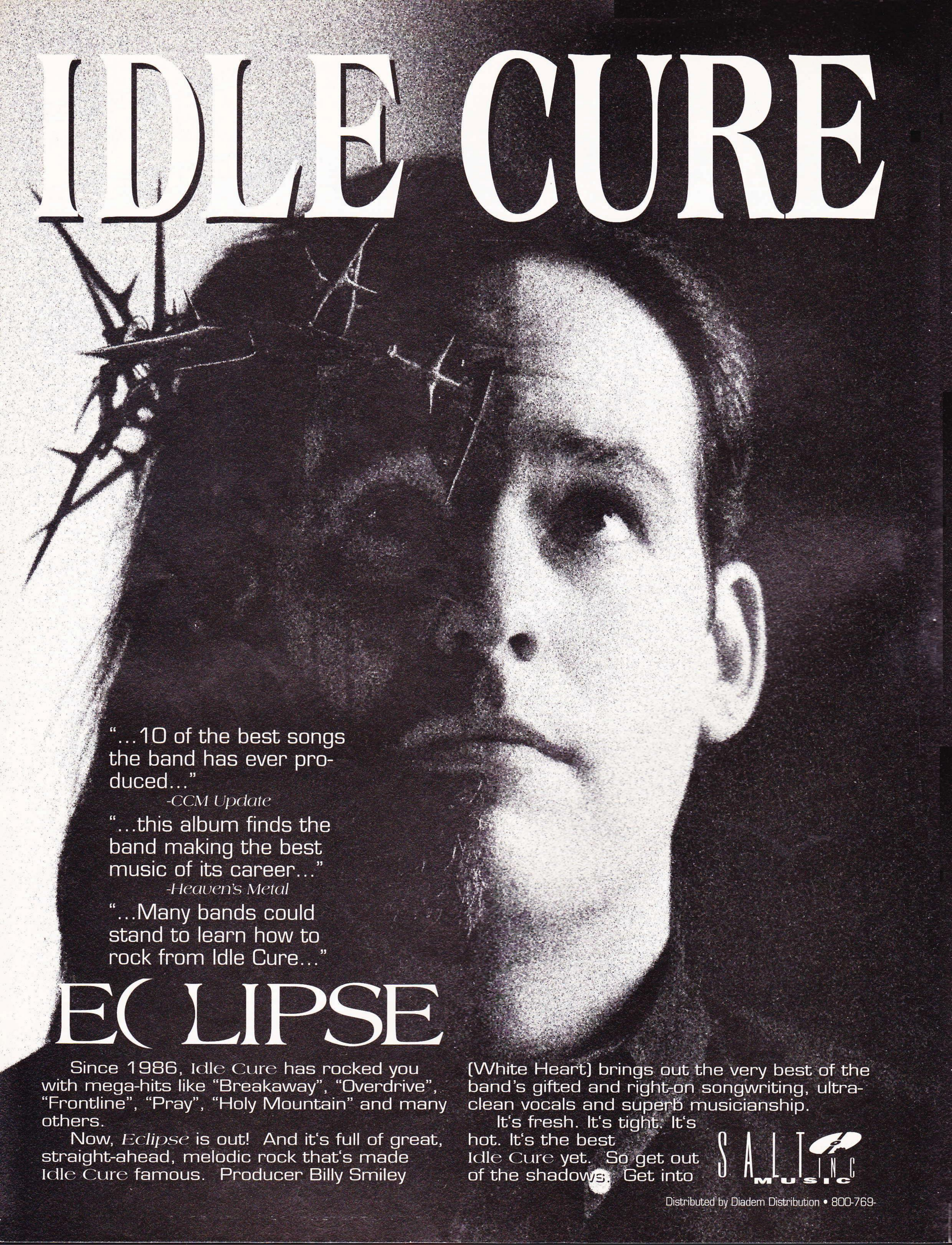
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(White Heart) brings out the very best of the band's gifted and right-on songwriting, ultra-clean vocals and superb musicianship.

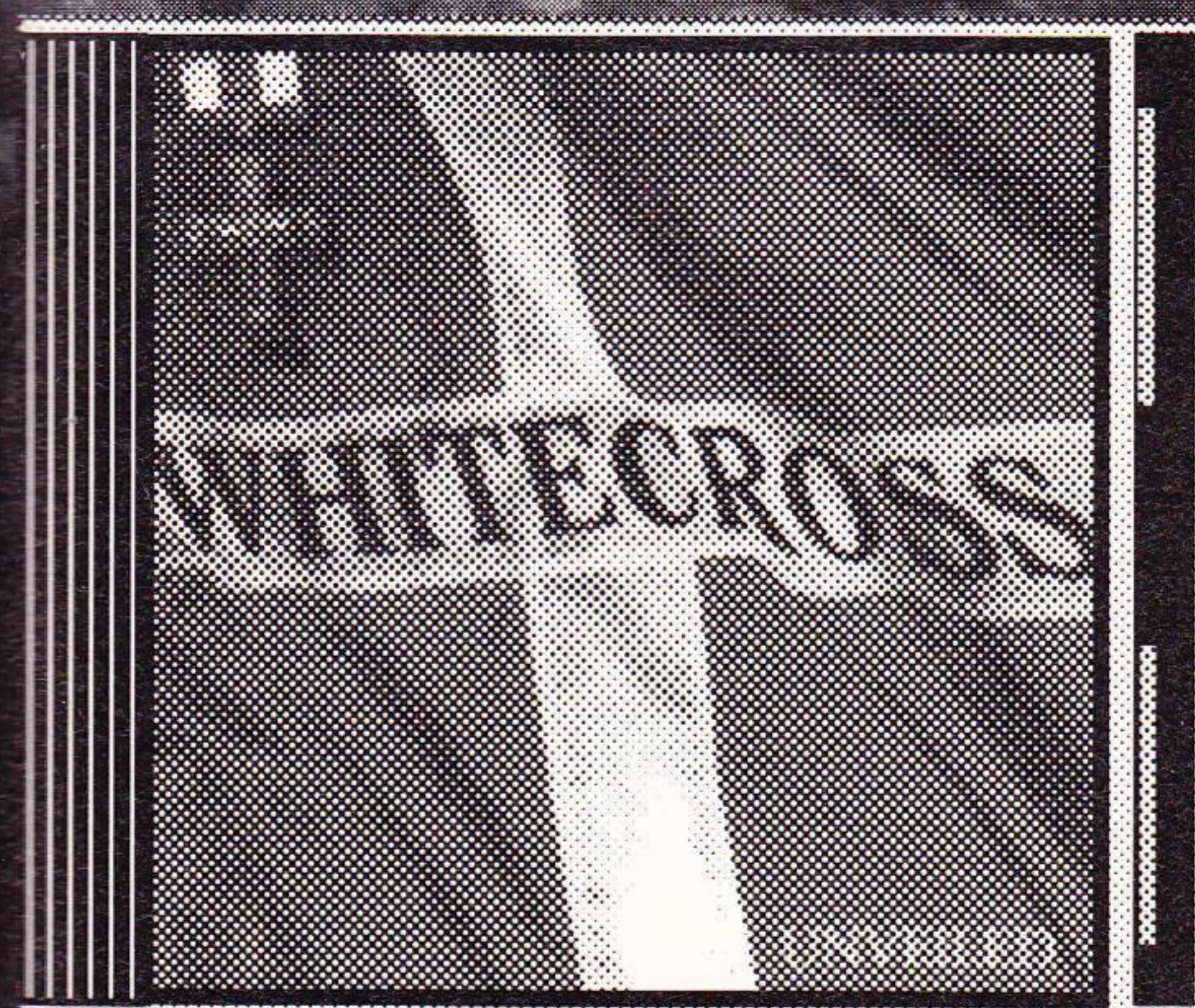
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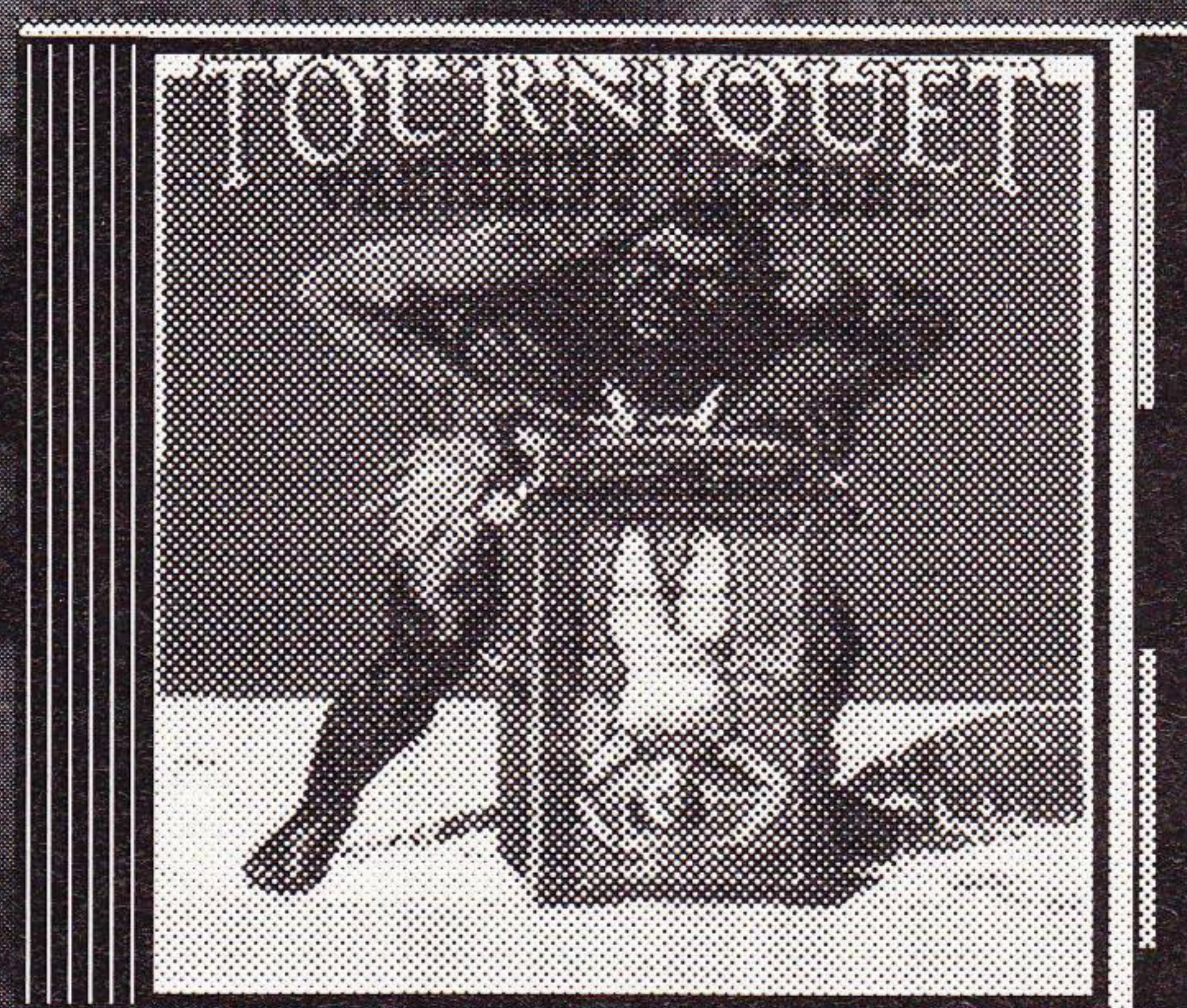
CAMELOT *music*

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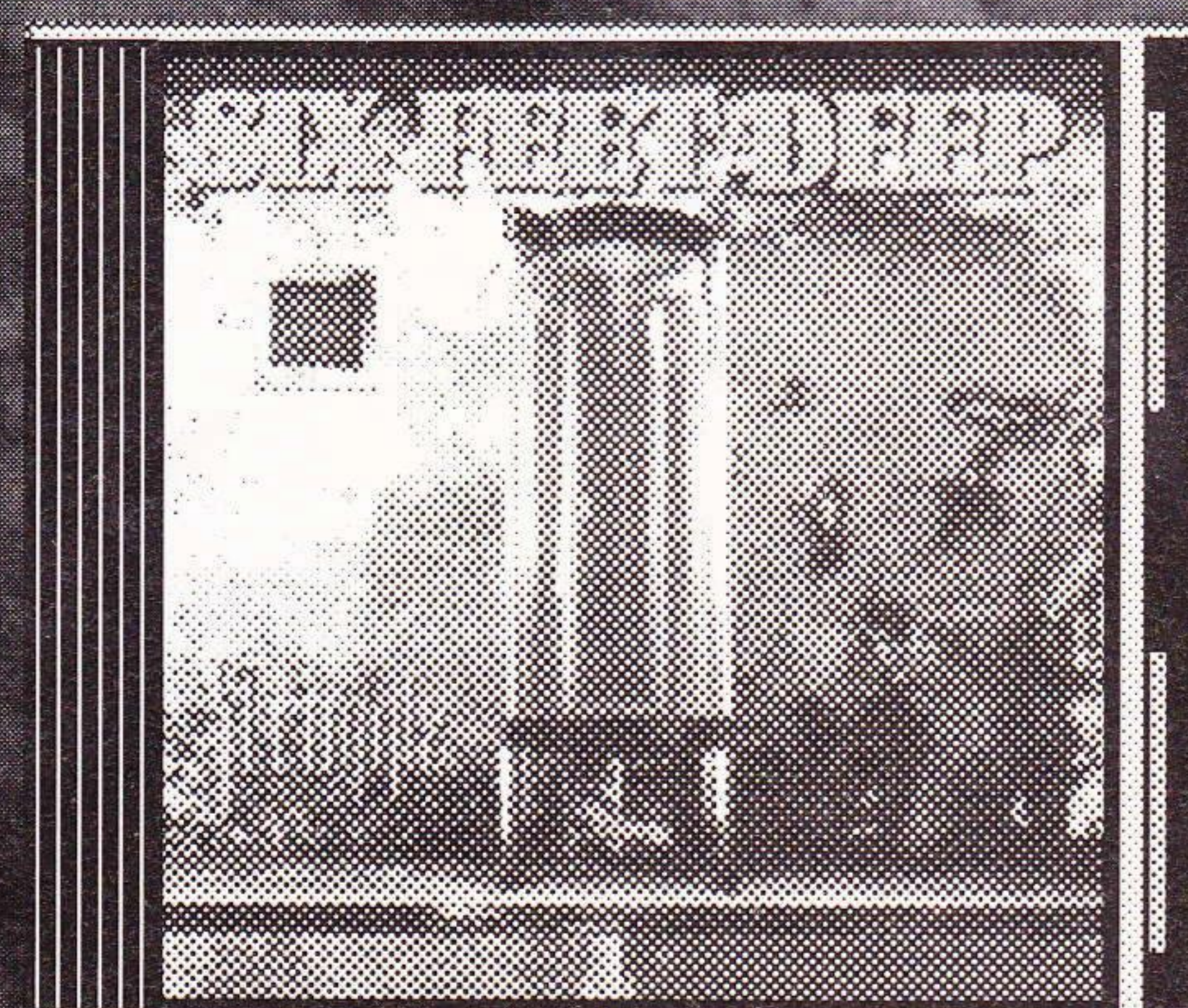
Whitecross
Unveiled

Rex



Tourniquet
Vanishing Lessons

Intense



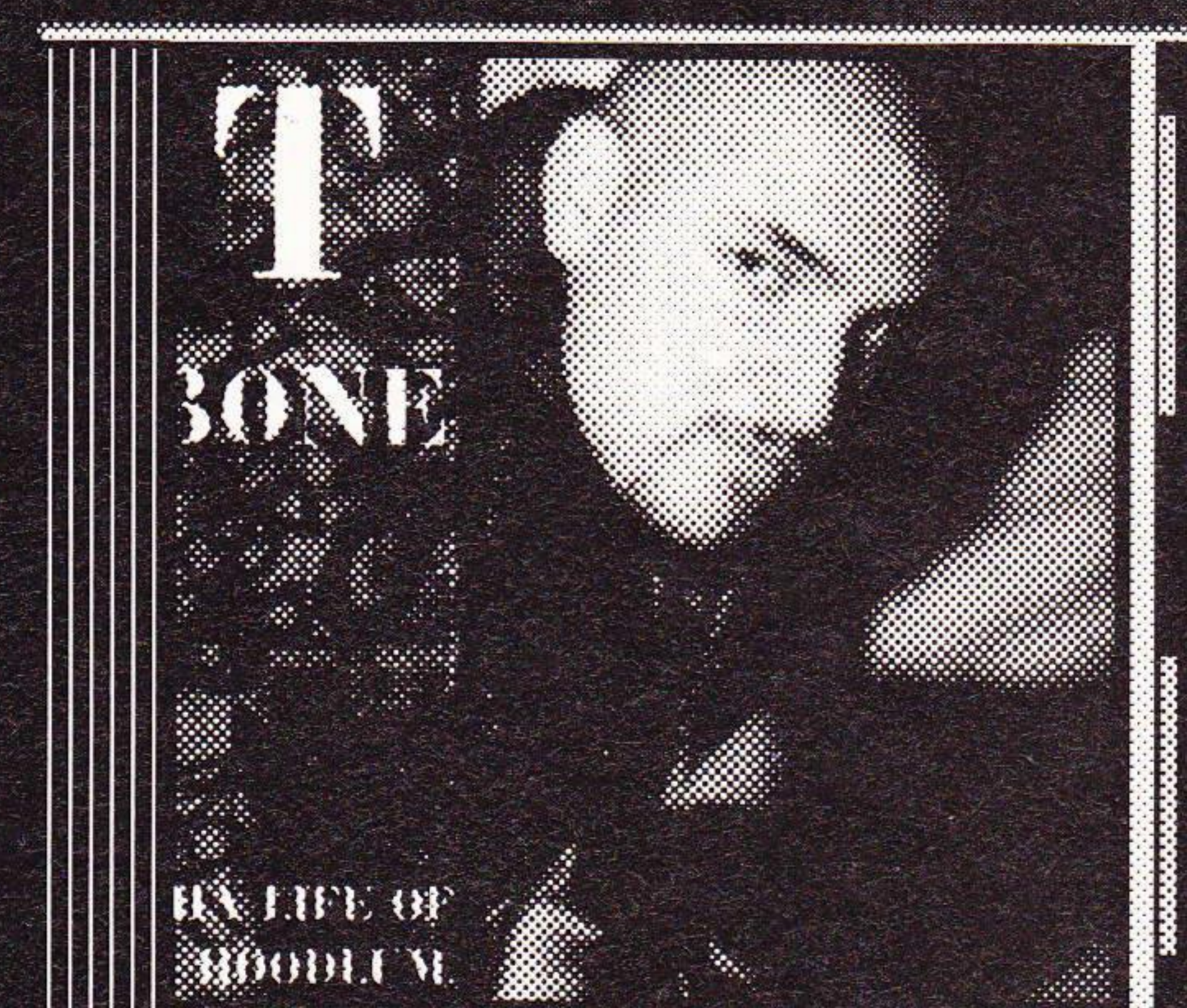
Six Feet Deep
Struggle

Rex



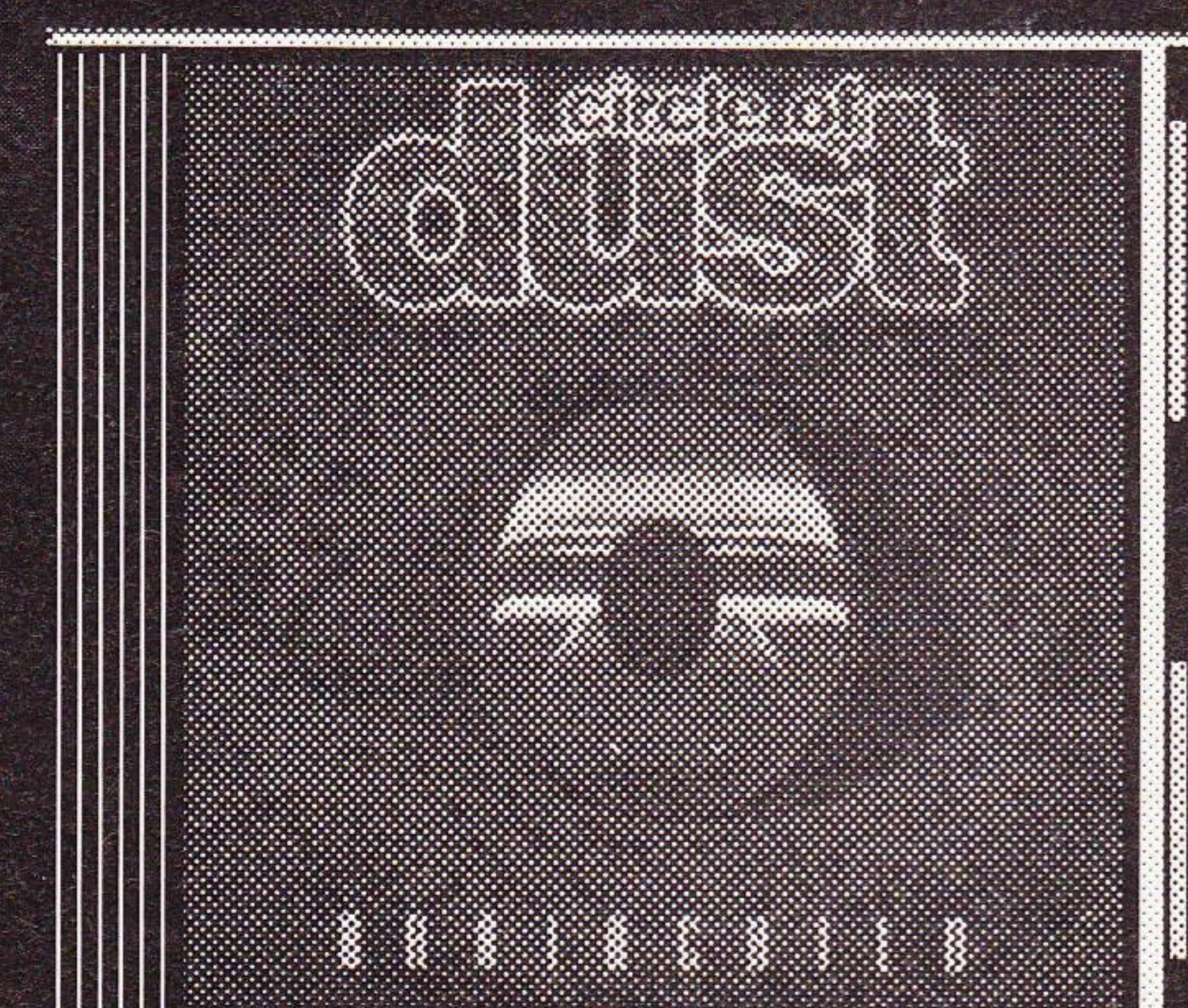
Mortal
Wake

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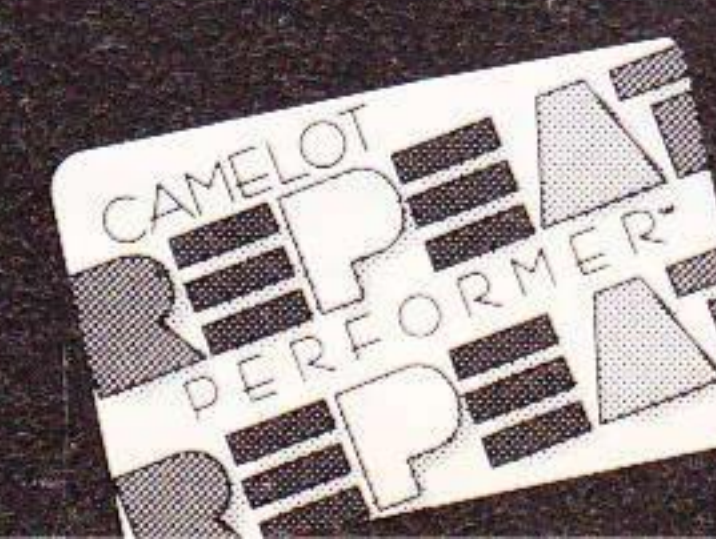
T-Bone
Tha Life Of A Hoodlum

Metro One

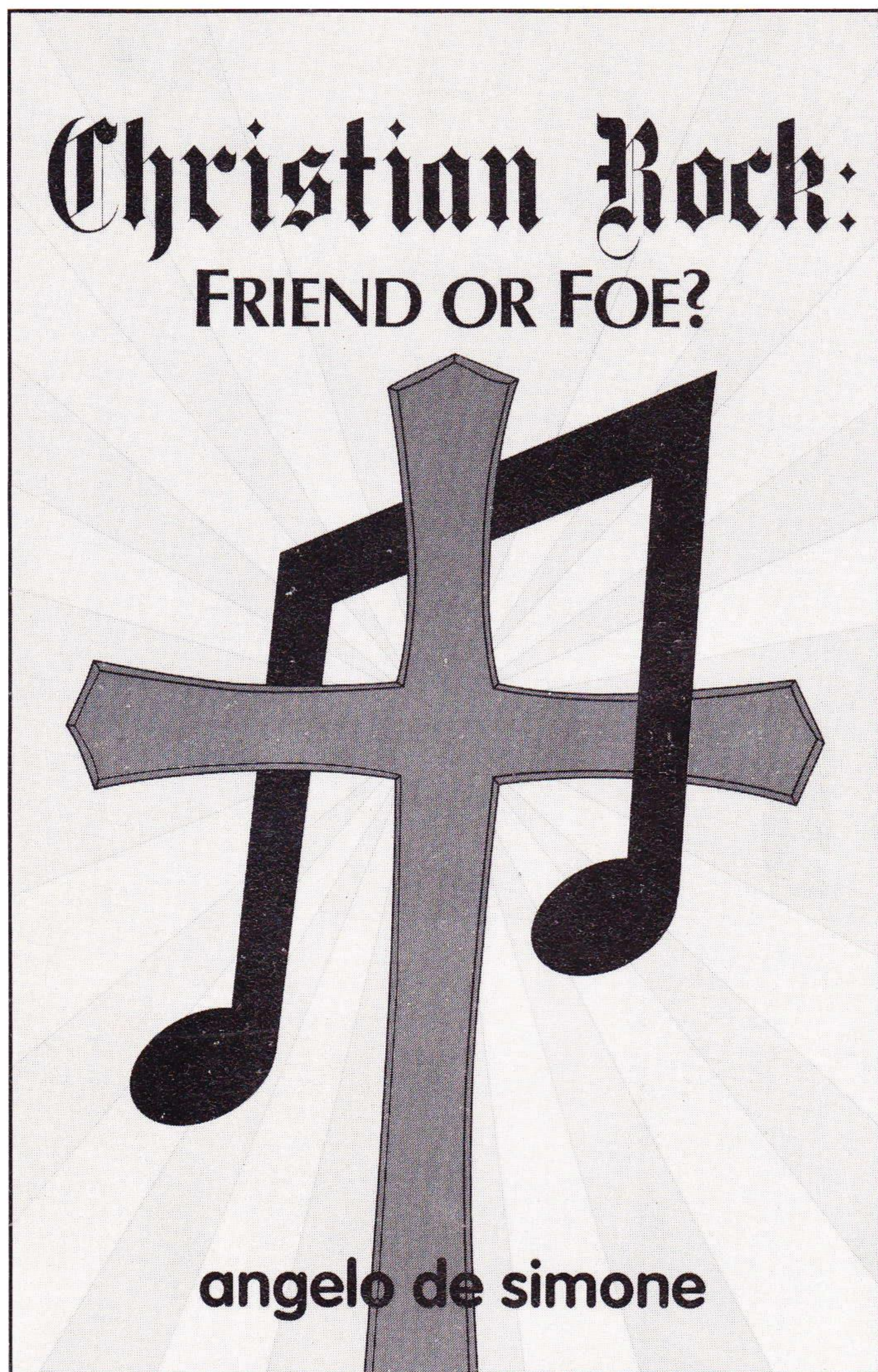


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 Cut above dotted line

Christian Rock: Friend or Foe? deals with a highly sensitive and controversial issue that is currently being disputed within the established Christian church. Some very stern judgments have been passed on Christian rock music and on the people who perform it, but the musicians themselves, who see it as their personal ministry for spreading the Good News, have not yet been given a fair hearing.

Here from a Christian musician's perspective, are thoughtful answers to questions such as these:

- Who created music?
- Where does the Bible stand on music?
- What is the function of music for the Christian church?
- Is music an integral part of a Christian's life?
- Is "Christian Rock" a contradiction in terms?
- Are all the traditional Christian songs truly inspired by God?
- Is there any difference between secular and Christian music?
- Is the message of Christian rock songs a watered-down or shallow Gospel?
- Is Christian rock music too worldly, just another form of entertainment?
- Is Christian rock music a form of addiction or sexual perversion?
- How long has this controversy existed within the established Christian church?

Over fifty reasons provided by Christians to the author for rejecting rock music as an acceptable ministry from God are examined in detail, revealing why there is such resistance to endorsing Christian rock within the established Christian church. Each reason is discussed from a logical, musical, and most important of all, scriptural standpoint. To substantiate the discussion, 275 Scripture references are provided. The reader is challenged to investigate the points raised by these reflections and to reach his or her own conclusion as to their validity.

Is Christian rock the friend of the established Christian church, or its foe? Is it a dangerous obstacle to the growth of the church? Or is it a great tool God has given us to further the coming of His Kingdom?

The stakes have never been higher. Thoughtful Christians cannot afford to reject an authentic ministry provided by God to bring to Himself the people of this increasingly troubled world.

MORE METAL TRACKS

music, information, and citizen problems (talk shows) in Romania . . . and they play Christian rock music (something no other station in Romania does). DeeJay Lazarescu Florin seeks help and copies of modern Christian music. You may write and bless this guy at: Str. 1 Decembrie 1918 Nr. 43, BL. L24 ET. 6, AP. 29, 8700 Constanta 2, Romania (fax: 011-40-41-617211).

Royal Anguish will soon enter the studio to record *The Chronicles of Autumn Sorrow*. Some of the songs are as follows: "Unparalleled Confusion," "Ceremonial Suicide," "Retrospect," "Element of Fear" and the nine and a half minute title track. The LP is scheduled for a January release and will be distributed through Relativity Entertainment Distribution and through Cargo Records in Canada, and Brutal Noise Records in South America. A description from A.R.T. is that the band's grind sound is all but gone, being replaced with a more atmospheric and melodic sound, yet with the brutal vocals of **Matt Knowles** still there.

Pale Horse has disbanded after selling tons of their *Mournful* tape. Former vocalist **Rich Olson** has formed a new band called **Breath of Life**, which is slower than Pale Horse was. The band will be releasing a cassette EP on A.R.T. Records early in '95.

There's a buzz about a hot band in South Carolina called **Birthright**. Be the first on your block to find out if it's legit. Contact Phil Holmes at: PO Box 1193, Duncan, SC 29334.

Indie Empire is a new sublabel of Metro One. The vision is to promote various independent artists through compilation projects in order to obtain more recognition for their music ministry. The sublabel is entirely run by interns, who volunteer their time and energy for the propagation of the Gospel through music. The first project is *Microphone Theology*, a very credible rap compilation. From what I've heard of this stuff, it's better than most of what we're hearing from the bigger labels. Plans are to diversify into all styles

of music, so maybe those crunch maniacs among us will get a healthy serving of tuneage as well...

The Brave announce its new drummer -- **John Spittle**.

Dallas death/grind metallers **Disencumbrance** is in search of a new bassist. Those hot bassists willing to play death metal and relocate to Dallas are encouraged to contact the band at: 825 Bullock Rd, Coppell, TX 75019; or call (214) 462-1952. The band currently has a 2-song tape out and plans to record a new demo right away.

Atomic Opera has been on tour with **Dio**, whose lead guitarist, by the way, used to be the guitarist/songwriter for **The Warning**. Remember **Tracy G**? He's the same guy that played wailing guitars on tunes like "Abortion is Murder" and "A Day In The Life of a Southern California Christian." He has written the majority of the music and lyrics on Dio's latest -- *Strange Highways*. (Pray for him) Right after The Warning released *Cut The Crap*, they were going to record *Shattered Faith* for Narrowpath Records. At that time lead vocalist **Burrito** was burnt by all the crap in the music scene and his life, so he took the offer from his company to relocate to the East Coast. He has since restarted the "Radicals for Christ" Bible study, plus the discipleship-oriented Radicals for Christ Newsletter. You can reach 'em at: PO Box 5291, Glen Allen, VA 23058. Back to Atomic Opera: their first single for was "Justice," which is being followed by "Joyride."

Industry tip sheet Liner Notes, written and edited by our beloved HM writer **Jerry Wilson**, has ceased publication for a while.

Those interested in getting ahold of any of the releases on the new label Rowe Productions (like the hot *Godspeed* compilation album) may order direct by writing: PO Box 339, Mentone, Vic., 3194 Australia.

Speaking of the term "Godspeed," a new radio show in The Netherlands has adopted that name. The band **Sculpture** has broadened its boundaries and have started two radio shows -- the

other one called "Jungle Hour." They've also started a Dutch magazine called Metal Mission. Those wishing to contact Sculpture may write: Radio Bodegraven, PO Box 1039, 2410 CA Bodegraven, The Netherlands.

Circle of Dust have replaced Chris on bass with **John Lopez**. Those digging the sounds of **Klank** (heard on the *Demolition II* album) may write the band at: PO Box 223, Farmingdale, NY 11735.

Crashdog has taken a little time off this past summer to recover from the "Hardcore '94" tour and also have babies. **Brian Grover** (bassist) and wife, **Leah**, had a baby girl named Meghan. **Andrew Mandell** (guitarist) and wife, **Robin**, have been patiently waiting the birth of their third child.

The **Tamplin** lineup has changed a bit as it hit the road for the *Testify Tour*. **Steve McCormack** is playing bass now.

Nouveaux has gotten off to a great start, having scored endorsements with Peavey, Yamaha, Epiphone, and forming a partnership with World Vision . . . and don't forget scoring an opening slot on this fall's Michael Sweet tour.

Timothy Dwelle has published a really helpful booklet called Music Video 101 - Home Camcorder Production. While sounding like a potential ball of cheese, the booklet is rather helpful and pays special attention to detail -- the key to producing an acceptable home video presentation. For info, write: TIMTV, PO Box 2251, Douglasville, GA 30133.

No Longer Music, a mission-minded musical group that has traveled the world preaching Jesus and making disciples, recently participated in a "Jesus Camp," which was organized for those that prayed to receive Jesus during the national tour of Poland that band undertook. This was basically a realistic, "nuts and bolts" follow-up camp that allowed those who made a decision to develop in their walks with Christ. One boy who participated sums it up well: "During the No Longer Music tour I gave my life

to Jesus, but I was ashamed in front of my friends. But, in the Jesus Camp, God has given me the boldness to share Jesus with them."

The guitarist from **Dynamo**, **Mick Dycus**, is still kickin' music around at age 38, recording stuff at home. You can reach him at: PO Box 1312, Dyersburg, TN 38025-1312.

Musicians that can might want to check out the Philadelphia Music Conference from November 3-6. For more info, call (215) 426-4109.

Evangel College's Christian radio station has switched from AM to 93.5 FM.

Signature Records is a new East Coast independent Christian record label. Their first release is an album from a band called **Project X**, a progressive rock band. For more info, write: PO Box 921, Lansdowne PA 19050-9998.

There's a conference in Kansas focusing on Christians in the arts, called "Spanning The Gap: The Artist's Calling." It's from November 11-13 in Wichita. For more info, contact Lynn Woolf at (316) 942-4291 ext. 326.

Those wanting to donate copies of Christian zines can put them to good use by sending some to: E.K. Metal Ministry, Attn: Dwight Wallbride, 185 Summerfield Way, WPG, MB, Canada, R2G-2B2.

There's a magazine called Contra Mundum, which is a project of The Trinity Institute, an organization promoting critical thinking and use of the arts by the Christian. For info, write: The Trinity Institute, Westminster Avenue, PO Box 100, Tehuacana, TX 76686. (817) 395-4444.

The "Free Gig Day" that Heaven's Metal declared last spring was a silent success. We kept it somewhat quiet for three reasons: One was to let people do their good deeds in front of God and not man; Two was to not paint those bands who did not participate as ungiving or unspiritual; and Three was because no one (except one) reported to us about the results! Moved back one day to fit everyone's schedule, **The Gathering**, **Godspeed**, and **Bones of**

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Bands looking for musicians? S. A. U. has a network.

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Adam rented an old school gymnasium on Friday, May 13th -- "one we've jammed in before for shows and always drew a decent crowd to. The Gathering took the stage around 9 PM with some Sacred Warrior-ish heavy metal. Next was Godspeed with a full set. The music was heavy grindcore and the mosh pit was in full force. Godspeed put on a tight set and did some heavy preaching. Last up was Bones of Adam, who put on a tight set of Pantera-ish funk-slam hardcore music, including a cover of The Crucified's 'Mindbender.' The show was exciting and was closed with about a 20-minute presentation of the Gospel by Mirf, the lead vocalist. A lot of stage diving went on during Bones' set, with a crowd of about 150 to catch 'em. At least one salvation that we know of and one backslidden Christian came to God that night."

Here's a rundown on the songs from Craig Erickson's solo album (reviewed in this issue): **Wild Little Woman** - "A

warning from Proverbs about prostitutes, cocaine, etc."

Don't Fight the Feeling - "The 'feeling' being compassion for fellow humans from the heart."

Cold Wind - "To a woman dealing with feelings from past experience of abuse."

Flyin' Free - "Visions of Heaven and the rapture."

40 Days - "More metaphor about being delivered from temporary trials and troubles."

Me and My Guitar - "Being lonely, but having the presence of the Spirit."

Cosmic Farm - "Being in the sky some day."

Everybody's Business - "About gossip city, television, etc."

Nightmare Hotel - "The world of drugs and insanity."

Closing Time - "Tears for a mixed-up world coming to a close."

Nuclear Blast are re-releasing **Mortification's** *Blood World* with different packaging. Mortification will be touring the U.S. in February. Look for an ad with all the tour dates in

the January issue of HM. The band also just signed a management deal with Mega Concert Promotions in Europe, who were the ones who organized their recent tour of Europe. The band has also just received some killer press in *Kerrang!* and other mags.

Gotee Records is a new label that is co-run by DC Talk frontman **Toby McKeehan**. Distributed by Word, the vision for the label, according to Toby, is: "We want to develop artists that can be a voice to the youth. Pearl Jam is a voice to the youth. Public Enemy is a voice to the youth. Gotee Records will develop artists that can be a positive voice to today's youth."

Record producer Dino Maddalone has upgraded his 24/48 track recording facility. He has purchased the first of its kind MTA Series 980 recording console -- designed by Malcolm Toft in London -- a fully computer automated recording/

mixing deck.

Robert Carlton, formerly of **Sevenfold**, and **Brenda Barnett**, formerly of **Seventh Sign**, have established a new band called **White Stone**. **Michael Barnett**, formerly of **Crumbacher**, is on drums. Brenda is currently in the studio laying down vocal tracks for the new band's recording. For more info, write: 864 W. 59th St, San Bernardino, CA 92407.

Bangin' Records has just inked a licensing agreement with Viva Records in Sweden. Currently the label is negotiating with the newly-reformed **Apostle** from Jacksonville, Florida (remember them?). Bangin' is looking for new groups to sign. They should send a copy of three songs or their demo tape, bio of group, pastor's letter of recommendation, and photo of the group. Send to: PO Box 632, Summerville, SC 29484-7032.

And that's all the news that's fit to print!

HM

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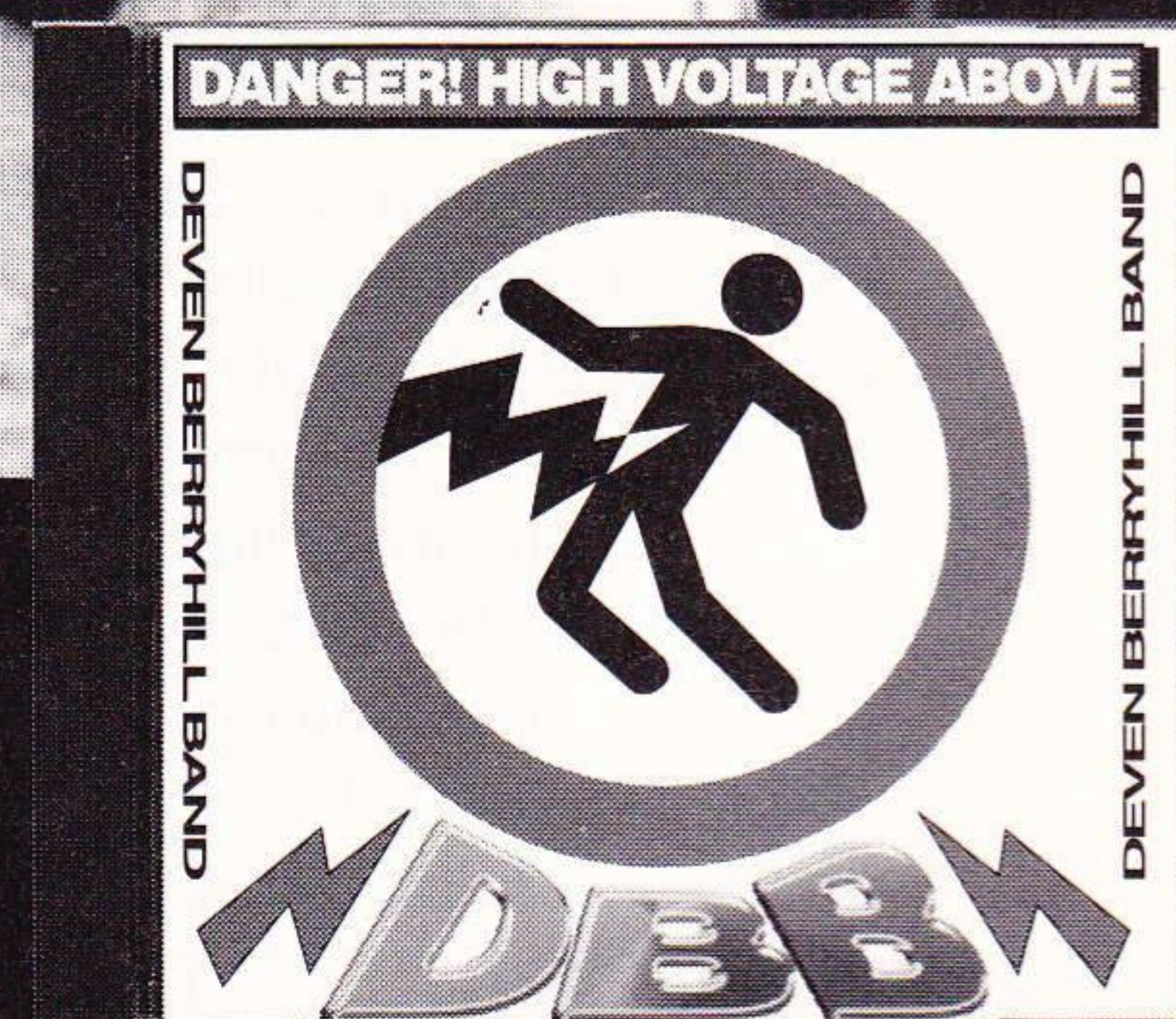
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Concert Reviews



Dale Thompson (Photo: Pamela Jones)

BRIDE

This was the second year in a row that Bride had been invited to this massive festival. We had played the S.O.S. the previous year, and at that time we did not know what to expect. When we arrived, it blew our expectations away. To play for 125,000 people at a single show had been the highlight of our years together. We had said in 1993 that this was a once-in-a-lifetime thing. Now, exactly one year later, here we were, September 16 & 17th, Bride, looking out at a Brazilian audience of 130,000 people.

The festival was two days of Brazilian national acts with Bride and Whitecross ending both nights. It was great to be in Brazil again and to become reacquainted with all our old friends that we had said goodbye to a year earlier. Nowhere else in the world we have ever played have I seen such a commitment of excellence for the Gospel, than in the folks who put on the show. The production topped that of Michael Jackson when he had played Brazil and the crowds quadrupled the audiences of Guns 'N Roses.

The most amazing thing that was consistent both years, was the hunger of the people for Jesus and their desire to give all to make this festival a success. The fasting, prayer, and faith in God made it possible for us this year to play when it seemed absolutely impossible to even get to Brazil. One must have a visa to enter Brazil, and we received ours the very day we departed for the 14-hour flight.

We played our hearts out for the people both nights, and I was even brave enough to stage dive into the sea of people -- almost to my destruction. The Brazilian people did not fully understand stage diving and body surfing, and I was dragged down beneath the people. Meanwhile, on stage we were playing "Troubled Times" to end the night. For two minutes I was battered and tossed about. I was even robbed of the very shirt on my back. The people did not want to give me back either. I came away with the thought that my bruises, scrapes and cuts would heal, but the poverty and thousands of hungry children there in Sao Paulo would be there -- dirty and homeless, long after I had left. (John 12:8 "You will always have the poor among you." NIV)

There were many reports that thousands of people were saved by the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ those two nights. The purpose of the S.O.S. festival was to introduce people to the Lord, but it also raised tons of food and clothing for those who normally go without. (Isaiah 58:7 "Is it not to share your food with the hungry and to provide the poor wanderer with shelter when you see the naked, clothe him, and not to turn away from your own flesh and blood?" NIV)

Bride and Whitecross topped the Brazilian trip off by ministering together at the church which put on the S.O.S. festival. Over 4,000 kids squeezed into the church and both bands agreed it was a great night in the Lord. My desire now is to see the kids of the

United States of America get on fire for Jesus and to see a festival of that magnitude erupt here where I live. "I had a dream, now I have a vision."

--Dale "Unbiased Reporter" Thompson

LOVEWAR & FEAR NOT

These two great bands, along with several others from the Houston area, made the Splash Town water park in Spring, Texas one giant concert venue, as two stages spilled loud music all over the park. Since admission to the concerts included access to the entire park, it was quite a time to splash around and have lots of fun. This sort of thing is done quite often in amusement parks around the country, where a promoter can "lease out" the park and receive a cut off the door. Thousands of Christians often come to these events, which allows the promoter to book several good bands. I can remember one concert in the late 80's at Six Flags Over Texas, where over 12,000 people packed a parking lot to see Stryper.

Lovewar played a brilliant set on the stage that overlooked the wave-making pool. Hundreds of people were floating on inner tubes as the giant wave-making machine churned up an artificial tide that meant you were rocked in more ways than one. There's nothing quite like laying in an inner tube seeing one of your favorite bands launch into a tune like "Golden Rule." I'd probably have to admit that it borders on "Christian decadence," cause it felt sooo good! During songs like "Soak Your Brain," where the lyrics pump out, "take a swim in the truth/nor soak your brain," and "In The Sea," which says, "immerse yourself in the sea of His face," it's irresistible not to dunk your head under the water.

Bassist Rick Armstrong, drummer Greg Purlee, and guitarist/vocalist Tim Bushong sounded extremely tight in both the musical low end and the vocal harmony department. The band showed a relaxed control as it went into the rockin' breakdown during "Take Me." During the band's sound check, my 10 year old brother-in-law turned to my wife and I and said matter-of-factly, "I've got to get these guys tape!" This was after about 30 seconds of his first exposure to Lovewar -- and he's pretty picky about the kind of music he likes. It's nice to see a band that sounds as brilliant live as they do in the studio -- without using backup DAT tapes.

Tim was very easy-going and jovial with the "here to have fun" crowd, and casu-



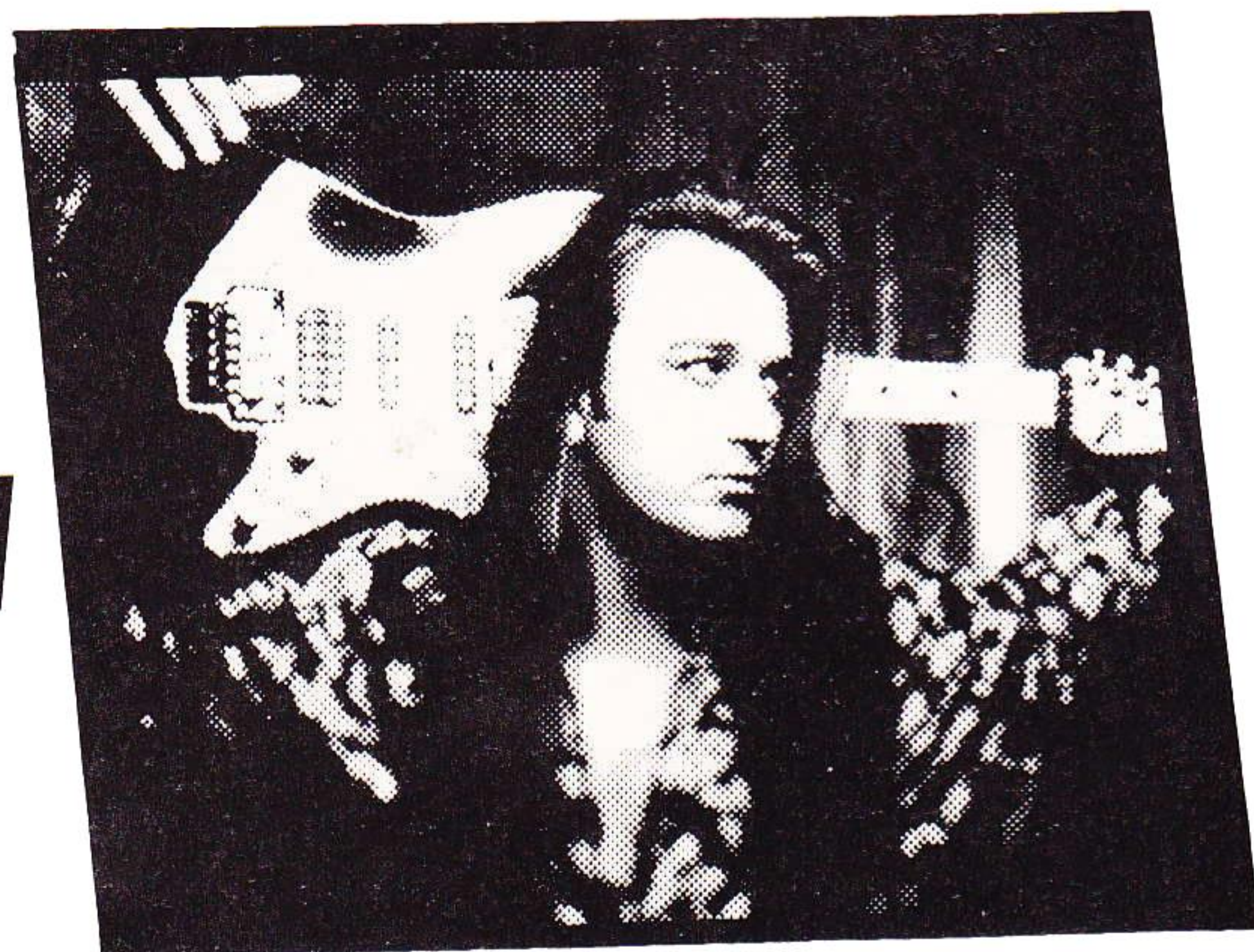
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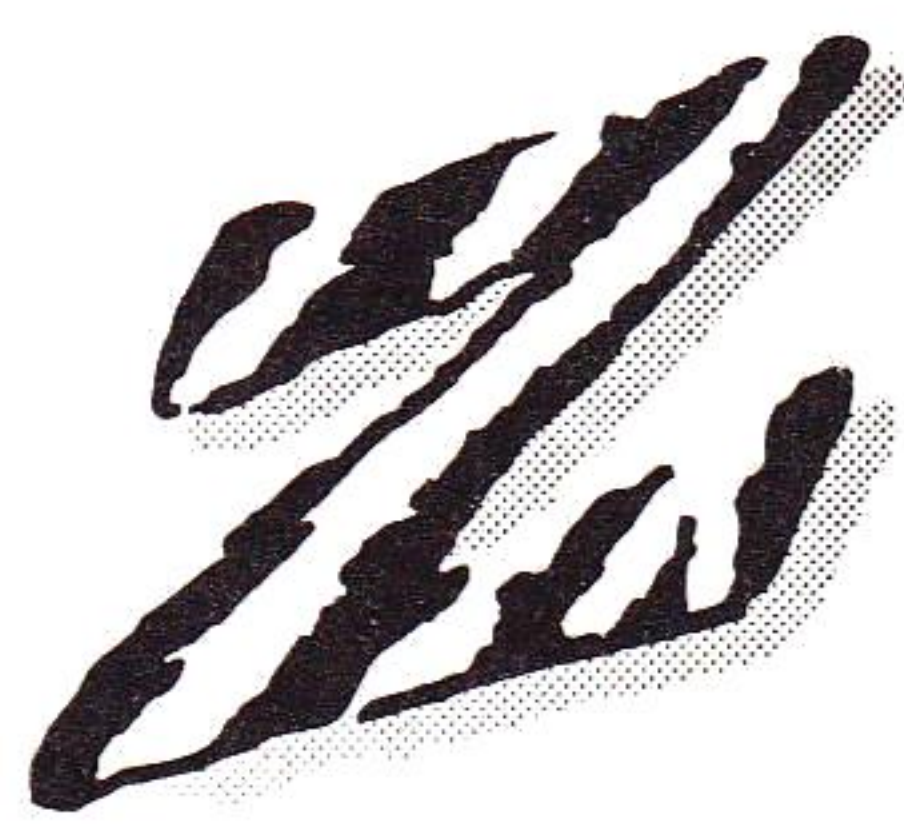
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ally announced that God is waiting to hear us say, "You win," as the band tore into the song of the same name.

Fear Not took the stage next, performing with a technical excellence with an unassuming image (ie. backwards baseball caps and shorts 'n' t-shirts) that fit right into the festive atmosphere. Larry Worley showcased his very special and trademark voice with clarity and class. The band played all its best songs, "Mad World," "We Have A God," "Mr. Compromise" and "Money Money." Where the band sounded best were the softer ballads "Suicide Sunshine" and "Till The End of My Days," which really showed off the rich voice of Mr. Worley.

The band had a firm grasp of the fun in the air, though, as they tore into their Beatles' cover of "Hard Day's Night." The best moment of the entire weekend came at the end of the band's last encore, when bassist Rod Romero decided to show the world what real stage diving was, and he dove off the 12-foot high stage into the water below. The big smile on his face when he came up out of the water matched the similar smile on everyone's face that watched him dive in.

Whenever I see good bands like this, especially when its a stellar double bill like this, I often think about how tragic it is that more people weren't here to experience this calibre of music. I'm sure both bands had a few hundred new fans that told all their friends what they shouldn't miss next time they're in town.

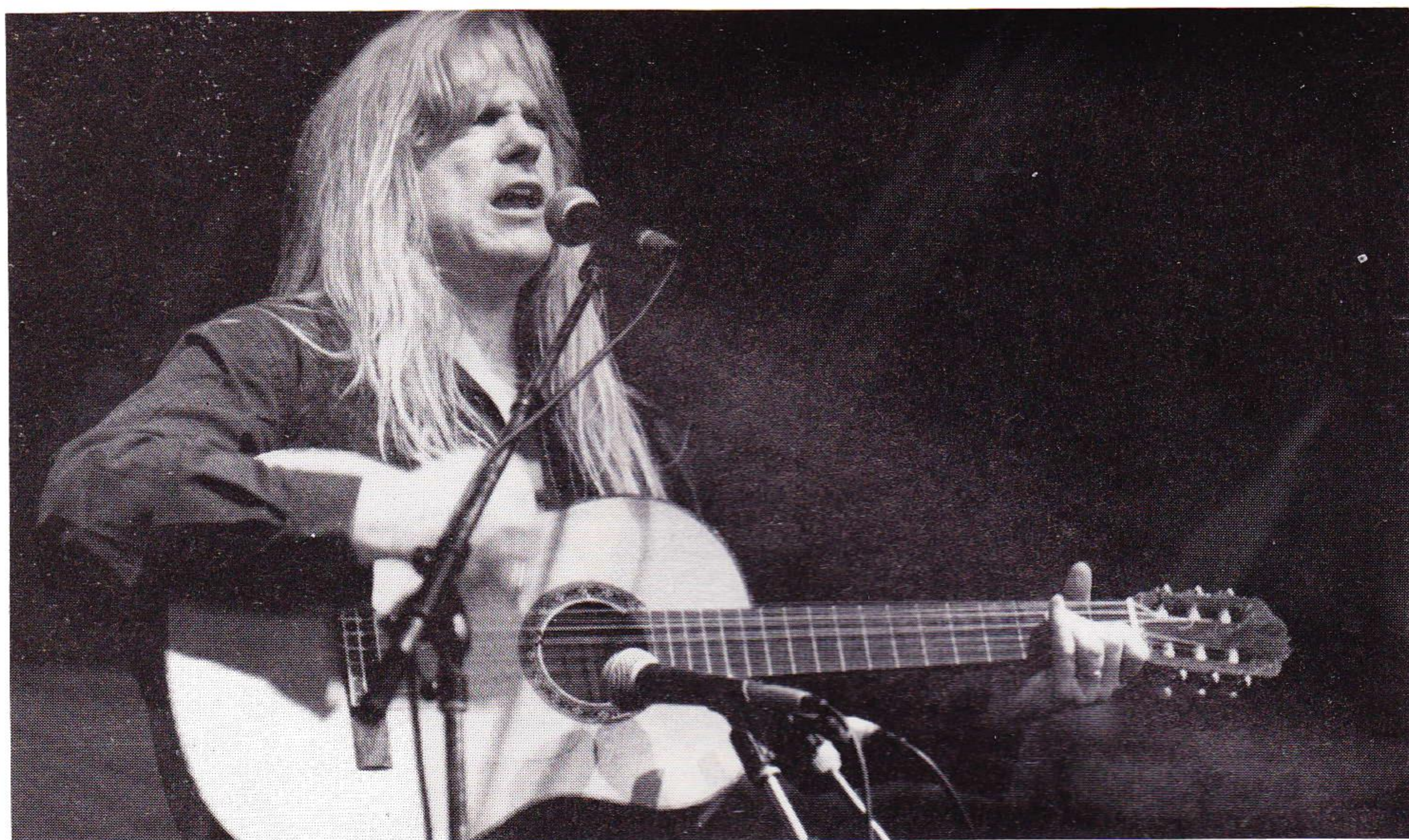
--Doug Van Pelt

LARRY NORMAN

Larry Norman fans were in for quite a treat on this night, as over 400 people packed the church sanctuary to hear one of Christian rock's most loved and endearing artists. Due to heart attacks, Larry has been in the hospital 13 times in the last two years, so he is only doing "unplugged" concerts. Those in attendance were not let down in the least, as they enjoyed a very intimate and engaging concert.

Larry kicked off the night with the well-known classic, "U.F.O.," as the audience listened intently with excitement. Also included was a new song off of Larry's new album, *A Moment in Time* (privately released on cassette at this concert), entitled "Elvis Has Left the Building, But God is in the House." The song is a theological dialogue that speaks of not looking to people as idols, but reminding the listener that God understands how confusing and dark life can get.

After intermission, Larry was waiting for someone to bring him his misplaced medication, so he broke into some catchy (and less stressful) children's songs that he learned as a child. After his medicine came, he ripped into "Why Should the Devil Have All the Good Music?" Like so many songs that night,



Larry Norman (Wilcox Photos)

Larry encouraged audience participation on the chorus.

Next was the new song, "Solid Rock," in which Larry warns the listener about how the devil uses the weapons of misdirection and distraction to confuse us. Also included in the set was "Down a Long Hard Road," which will, without a doubt, become a Norman classic and favorite, as it mixes realistic lyrics with melodic guitar riffs throughout the entire song. This is a real rocker!

Nearing the end of the concert, Larry played some favorites, such as "Small Circle of Friends" (with a Clapton and Dylan impersonation) and "Outlaw." After four hours of heavenly bliss, he closed with the guitar driven and very catchy new song, "One Foot Toward the Grave," and a short medley.

Topics throughout the night included dinosaur arms, evolution, the Bishop and heavy metal, insurance, and music charts. However, even though Larry joked a lot with the audience, it was evident that what Larry desired most was for each person there to experience God's love. This indeed was the concert of a lifetime. Certainly not a person left without feeling touched by God in some way.

This man thought he came to do a benefit for the prevention of child pornography, but when the church found out about his physical condition and that he was literally risking his life to do this, they turned the concert into a benefit for Larry, by turning all proceeds over to him. This meant a lot to Larry, because his insurance company has dropped him, he needs \$50,000 for preventative heart attack surgery, and the doctors believe that he will not survive one more heart attack. Please pray for Larry. If you would like to send a donation, it can be sent to: Street Level Records, 3760 Market Street N.E. Suite 306, Salem, Oregon 97301.

--Matthew B. Hunt

Darrell Mansfield

Few musicians have made a mark on Christian music like Darrell Mansfield. The "Blues Harp King" played at the Calvary Refuge in Sacramento to an audience that was packed to the walls.

With a very talented band backing him, Darrell played all of the favorite tunes that he is famous for -- "You've Got to Move," "People Get Ready" and "Stand By Me." They were flawlessly done and had the crowd screaming for more. "Thunder & Lightnin'" and "Jesus Will Reign" had the headbangers going at warp speed and his ballads genuinely pleased the older crowd.

Darrell, who is a Calvary Chapel pastor, shared the Word with a fervency that left the crowd with the ultimatum: "Get right or get left!" Many repented of different things and there was a sense of brokenness and revival in the house that night. Everyone left with the same feeling, like they'd been in the presence of God, with a renewed fervor for serving Him!

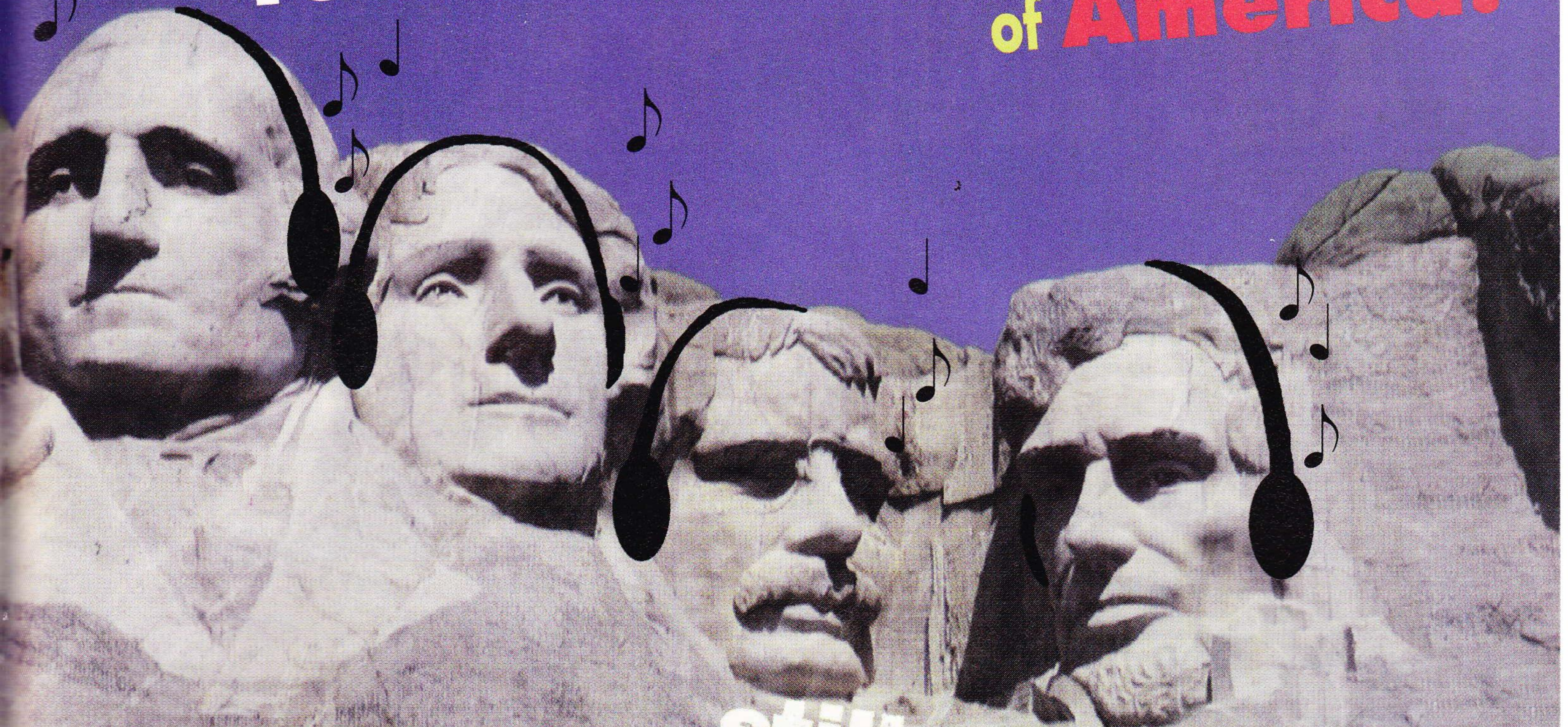
Darrell shared that much of the Bible identified with the blues: Psalms, Lamentations, the prophets, etc. Mr. Mansfield has always been, and probably will always be, a man driven by the Word of God, who has an intense love and handle on the blues and one who offers an uncompromising look at the Lord Jesus Christ.

--Pastor Fred Z.

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ALBUM REVIEWS

GUARDIAN

Swing Swang Swung

Myrrh

Guardian is a band that has all the elements. Let us count the ways: (1) a great hard rock/metal voice in 80-grit Jamie Rowe; (2) a spectacular and diverse guitar hero in Tony Palacios; (3) a powerful-yet tasteful rhythm section of bassist David Bach and drummer Karl Ney that ensure Guardian of its world-class performance status - a rock/metal hybrid without holes; (4) and a caring, altogether non-rock star attitude that translates into relevant and poignant songs. All of this in an industry that historically does not understand, accept or know how to promote heavy rock.

With *Miracle Mile*, it all came together -- great songs, a standout performance of hard-driving, catchy and sensitive hard rock. The band cashed in on the overdue respect it had earned over the years with charting singles, year-end awards and overall acceptance in their new home and the center of the industry in Nashville, TN.

All of this makes their new record, *Swing Swang Swung*, seem so frustrating; it's departure with a capital D. Heavy roots and acoustic overtones give the album an early '70s acoustic rock feel that is a major change from '90s hard rock of *Miracle Mile*. Initially, the whole band seems to be on a short leash -- Palacios gets a few bluesy solos in, but the songs don't lend themselves to the explosive leads he's known for. On some tracks ("Endless Summer"), Rowe pulls off the different vocal style with ease; on others, you find yourself yearning for his vocal command of the previous release. A few of the acoustic ballads ("Like the Sun," "Your Love") are indeed splendid, but their impact would seem much more effective on *Miracle Mile*, rather than taming the already tame *Swing Swang Swung*. To someone with a Guardian past, it takes some getting

used to.

The cuts that the band plugs in are reminiscent of classic-rock radio (at times with a southern-rock twist) that undermines the rural feel of the album. Upon additional listenings, the riffs and melodies may be as strong as "*Miracle Mile's*," only the surroundings are a bit different. Well okay -- the surroundings are worlds apart. Rather than streetwise flash, this album has a dirt-road sensibility. "Way Home Back" leads off the album with front-porch blues; "Preacher and the Bear" is a cover of a humorous Dixieland jazz standard, and "Endless Summer" and "Don't Say That It's Over" are catchy rockers, but seem in search of a knockout punch. But "Rich Man Over the Line" suffers from a syrupy pop aftertaste, and "C'mon Everyone" stoops to a silly guitar solo/crowd "oohhs" call-and-response.

The lyrics, for the most part, are positive and personal without being sugar-coated - this is one part of the band that hasn't changed. They identify society's trapping, encourage listeners to act on their faith, and are not afraid to write both simple praise songs and earthly love songs.

In the light of *Miracle Mile*, many may find *Swing Swang Swung* disappointing. But given the chance, this record is one that with each listen could surmount expectations of the past. The question is how much of a chance they get.

--Brent Hershey

UNDERCOVER

Forum

WAL

Undercover, a band involved in the onset of what we know as Christian music, has persevered through the trials of both the music industry, as well as crushing personal tribulation. And that is what makes us stronger and, dare I say, more certain of who we are . . . and what's inside of us. The passion that starts with "Spill" and continues

through "Union" wraps around you as it bellows through the speakers. Undercover flirts with joy on many different musical levels. The strange and pleasant addition of Rob Gallas (from Black & White World) taking lead vocal to a whole new dimension for the band, paints new stories and challenges old Undercover listeners with a simplicity that is quite refreshing.

The menacing, thrilling keyboards find their trademark on several cuts, such as "Forum (Lullaby)" stating, among other truths, "It's only how you think that matters..." At first maybe just another humanistic, selfish ideology . . . but, in context, a personal realization of a relationship with our Creator. Grit and groove, flame and funk swirl throughout each song. There are no facades on this record. No pretentious yelping about how much we know about God -- but God, or His Spirit, permeates through the dancing violins on "Carmenita." We wonder over wonder about the heavens in "Moon and The Blue Around."

Redefining has been fun for these guys. A new plateau, and they sure make it fun for us. Our car stereos will love it for the guitar of "Whoa Nelly," the all-out desperation of "A Pocket Full of Money" and a complete package of straight-ahead assault in a forum we who appreciate good rock and roll will understand. Undercover is on higher ground.

--Chris Taylor

ALICE COOPER

The Last Temptation

Epic

The king of shock rock is back with the most interesting concept album since Queensryche's *Operation Mindcrime*. But what may really shock Alice's fans is the intense spirituality that seeps through every crevice of this album.

The concept is a Tales of the Crypt-style story line about a young man who is invited to a

"free" show at the Theater of the Real. The young man sees quite a show -- the full gamut of what the dark side of his life has to offer. He is invited to become a permanent part of the show, but ultimately declines (partly because all the permanent members seem to be permanently dead!).

The music here is Alice's usual -- an accessible, pop rock style, accented with lots of interesting voices and eerie special effects. But, it is the themes that are the most fascinating. "Nothing Free" is an ironic tune about the consequences of sin. "Bad Places Alone" introduces us to people who were so cool it killed them, like the addict Smokey Joe ("I'm as thin as a coroner's needle/ Man, I shake like a cold Chihuahua/ I got a runny nose and a road map on my arm.") And there is the beautiful mercy in "You're My Temptation."

In the song "Lullaby," the young man finally realizes who the Showman is. In a renunciation of the devil worthy of the Exorcist, he tells the Showman off: "I don't want your reptile embrace/ I don't want to follow you down to your place/ You can take your whiskey soaked, foaming at the mouth, toilet talking, pea soup spewing, sweating blood, demon breath out of my face!"

The album ends with "Cleansed by Fire," which asks all the right questions: "What about death? What about sin? What about the web you're trying to spin? What about peace? What about love? What about faith in God above?" Then Alice closes with an affirmation of faith: "You lose/ I win/ You couldn't suck me in/ It's over/ You have no power/ You're lost and I'm found/ and I'm Heaven bound."

If you want to see the concept more clearly, there is also a three-part comic book series written by Alice and Neil Gaimon, author of the Sandman comics. (You'll find a sample of the artwork inside the CD cover) This is

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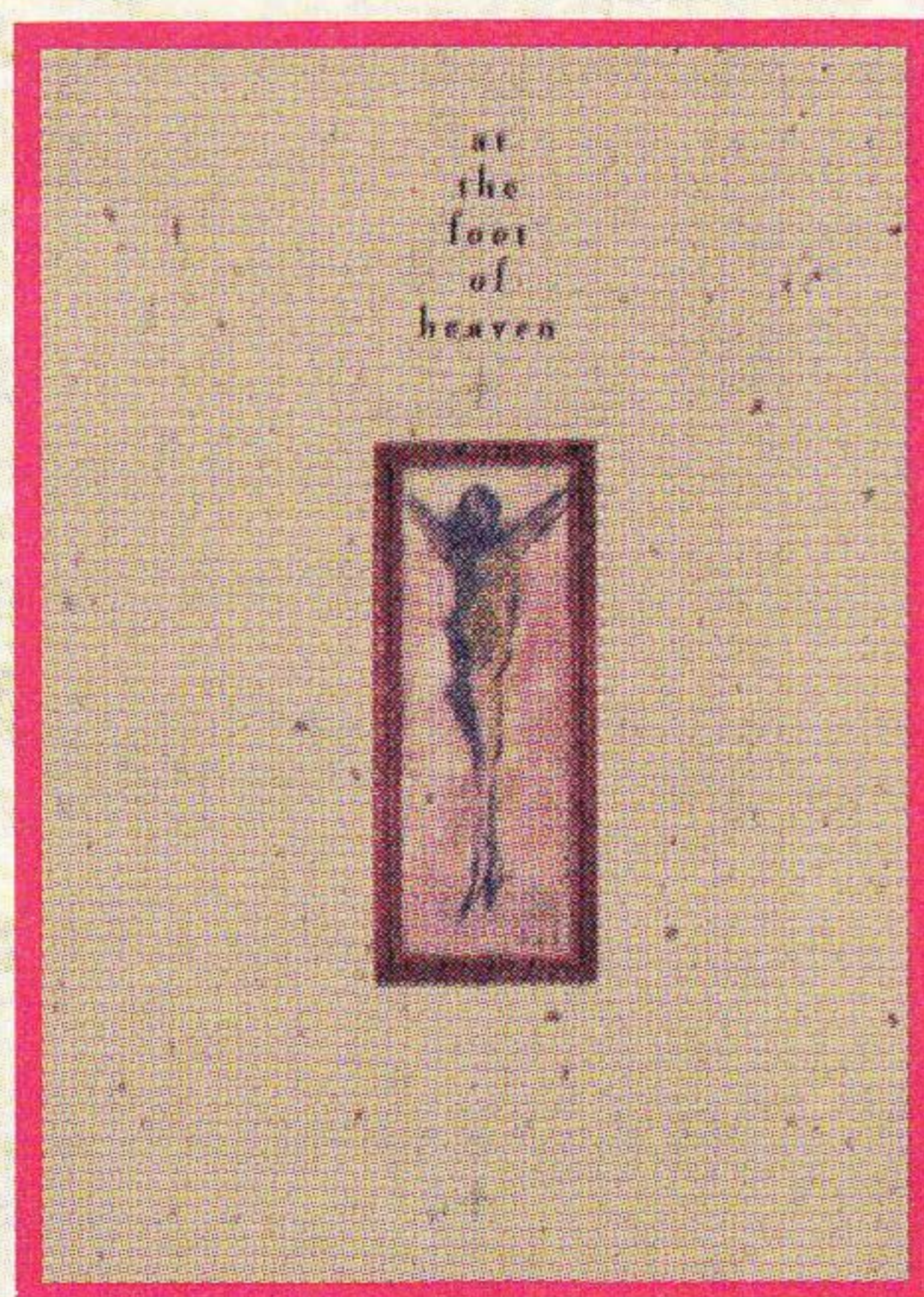


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--Pastor Dave

NOUVEAUX Beginnings

Benson

Hey! Hoe! Nobody told me that Def Leppard liked Christian music! Nouveaux, although their own band, sound like they've logged several hours listening to their *Hysteria* CD's. Big 'n' wide harmonies atop simple pop metal rhythms are the order de Nouveaux.

Finished just prior to hitting the road with Michael Sweet, this album is chuck full of good melodic songs. While in Australia, Walter Harnisch, the lead vocalist for Cry Mercy, told me that Steve Rowe told him that Mortification performed "real men's music" and that Cry Mercy played "music for girls." Walter replied, "I'd much rather have girls cheering us on than men. What does that say about you, Steve?" Nouveaux will have to brush up on similar comebacks, for their music is polished and precise -- just the sort of thing to swoon the young girls.

Lyrically, the band tackles racism ("United We Stand"), the state of America ("Red, White, Black & Blue"), boy/girl relationships ("Hurts So Bad" and "All That Glitters") and God's heart towards sinful man ("Holding My Own").

Best song could be the atmospheric "All That Glitters," with its tasty leads, or the rockin' opener "We Believe." It's amazing how the closing tune, "Across The Miles," sounds (both musically and vocally) like a dead ringer for Michael W. Smith. The strength of this band is their clean sound; and the strength of this album -- producer Doug Beiden made sure -- is its consistency.

--Doug Van Pelt

THE CRUCIFIED Nailed/Take Up Your Cross

Tooth & Nail

The ex-kings of hardcore groove are revisited here,

as two of their underground tapes were remastered to give them new life. While the guitar tones are of the garage punk era, this disc doesn't sound bad. This disc could stand up to any old punk album and compete on equal terms

Tunes like "Silent Scream," with its melodic low end, the slamming tightness in "All You Need," the harsh pouting vocals during the verses of "Death To Death," the haunting chords of "The Nowl," and the classic "Your Image" are most reminiscent of The Crucified we've come to know as an extremely heavy band. The buzz saw guitar riffs of tunes like "Conviction" and "Be Warned" (Yowza!) and the rat-a-tat snare drumming in tunes like "Rebellion" show The Crucified swimming in old school punk waters.

The rifling riff in "Freedom" make one miss The Crucified -- although the screaming lead in same song doesn't make one miss this recording. While not a progression from Pillars..., this is still essential Crucified material for the collection.

--DV

BLENDERHEAD Prime Candidate For Burnout

Tooth & Nail

What punk rock usually does, without even trying, is it captures raw, rabid, and released emotions. What was bottled up comes screaming out with all the control and polish that rage allows. Blenderhead captures this passion and releases it in 12 groove-ridden tunes here.

A tune like "Cesspool" is a perfect example. It seems as if all the rage that being treated like garbage over and over again comes spilling out at 90 mph. Not to say it's devoid of melodic groove, though. The melody is what sets up the anguished vocal delivery to have more impact -- something Nirvana was great at.

"Alcohol House" is another tune that screams (literally) with emotion about the false promises of "we can get along" (ie. "we'll change, honest").

The plodding, melodic feel of "Internalize" is very cool. Shades of Cobain really come to mind here. The Helmet-like aggro

riffs of "Soapbox" rule! This is not only the best song on the album, but easily one of the best cuts in Christian hard music this year. It's funny to hear a progression in the chorus that's like *Killers*-era Iron Maiden. The crunchy riff in the verse just kills! The solo in the bridge is sonic mayhem a la Living Colour in psycho mode.

My expectations were shattered with this disc. I didn't expect much more than some garage fodder and I have come away impressed -- with the desire to give this one plenty of private airplay.

--DV

VARIOUS Extremely Loud Guitar Star Song

This "soundtrack" for the guitar tablature book features some of the heaviest and best Christian metal ever laid down on tape. Bands featured include Bride, X-Sinner, Guardian, Holy Soldier, Whitecross, Vengeance, Tourniquet, Deliverance, and guitar smashers One Bad Pig -- to name a few! Almost every style a guitarist would want to learn is represented here.

One highlight here is "In Your Face," the Shout tune that featured dueling leads by Marty Friedman, Michael Angelo, Lanny Cordola, Alex Masi, Joey Price and Randy Hansen as guests.

Without trying to be, this album is easily one of the best Christian metal compilation albums ever released. The book is a flat-out answer to prayer. Guitar players, say "Amen!"

Some songs will prove to be a challenge to learn, like the double leads in "To Hell With The Devil," but the tape is a good listen -- all 21 tracks.

--DV

UNASHAMED Silence

Tooth & Nail

If Unashamed gives off anything with this album, it sure ain't silence! With a military-like cadence, Unashamed comes across as bold as a lion. I was expecting thin and tin-like guitar tones with machine-gun snare

accompaniment. What we get instead is intense hardcore with the power of classic metal. No, it ain't Judas Priest with tatoos, but the wall of distortion and rumbling low end conjures up an awesome sonic assault that is totally heavy. "Stand" is a good example of a crunchy metal riff used to good effect. "Renewal" brings up images of The Crucified at their best.

Jeff the vocalist unleashes probably a gallon's worth of spit in these 10 tunes, but each drop of saliva is delivered with such power and conviction that you have to believe that he believes every word he's saying. Don't stand too close to the speakers during "Break The Chain" -- the spit might be too real!

Lyrically, they're totally unashamed to worship, exalt, and hype God. "Blessed Redeemer" is probably the growliest worship tune ever recorded. It's hard to imagine this one in a hymnal someday! When God inspired David to write the 23rd Psalm 4,000 years ago, He knew that Unashamed would use it powerfully in a slow breakdown section in the song "Sustained." The promise that He's with us in the valley of the shadow of death is communicated here in as an effective way as I've heard.

After hearing this album, I truly regret missing Unashamed's impromptu set at Cornerstone. Next chance I get, though, Lord willing, I won't miss these guys.

--DV

CRIMSON THORN Unearthed

Atomic Records

Absolutely no effects were used on any vocals on this album. This is the real stuff here! This band holds down a tight groove as fine as any, and the vocals of Luke Renno growl with confidence. Guitarists Miles Sunde and Paul Jongeward know how to crunch it up mainstream style, as evidenced in the Metallica-like riff in "Cultivated Decay." These guys, along with drummer Kevin Sundberg, don't slow down a bit.

"Comatose" is a standout cut from my perspec-

tive, because it takes a somewhat slower riff to build around, along with a nice biting guitar tone. The song reminds me of "Phantom Limb," in that it parallels ignoring Christ with a physical calamity. Lyrically, the band is very explanatory about the central doctrines of Christ, sin, and salvation. "Your Carcass" effectively dissects the battle between flesh and spirit. "Malignant Masters" is an interesting tune that blasts "self appointed wise men" that are "infesting colleges and schools," but are "truly only fools." This tune also carries a heavy 'n' hypnotic groove. The band rides the melodic progression out, while each verse is sung, and then they fly into some wild 'n' speedy leads until the next verse.

Without throwing out a bunch of secular band names in an attempt to impress you with my knowledge of the death metal scene, let me just say that this is a good death metal album. Nuff said?!

If you can't find this one in your stores, order direct (\$12-k; \$14-CD) from Covenant Music.

--DV

VARIOUS Raw & Rock

Brainstorm

These two compilation albums (out of four) that Brainstorm has released each include a cut off the new Deliverance album -- *River Disturbance*. This makes the disk a sneak-preview as well as a chance to get some of the classic Brainstorm catalog songs on CD. Raw has "Belltown," another heavy Queensryche does Saviour Machine special from Jimmy Brown and Co. The lyrics tell a sad tale of destruction, where "the needle finds daddy's arm again."

Classic tunes like "Finger Pointer" and "Devil Metal" from Nobody Special show up here, as well as making sure the public is aware of how great XL & DBD's album was.

Rock includes "I Thought" by Deliverance, a brooding tune with very cool percussive licks. The band shows a further progression of their cool

original sound. Collector's tunes on this one include a few 77's gems from Sticks & Stones, and "What's the Buzz?" -- the Jesus Christ Superstar cover by Nobody Special.

With two "Buy Four Get One Free" coupons on these disks, it makes for an even smarter buy.

--DV

CRAIG ERICKSON Retro Blues Express

Shrapnel

There wuz a lotta talk 'bout da blues in da last issue, but one feller who might git looked over is Mr. Craig Erickson. This ole boy from Cedar Rapids, Iowa has been hackin' away at it for a while now (The music store he's been working at has carried Heaven's Metal for nearly 8 years). Being on Shrapnel Records, he probably has the widest influence opportunity of any of the dudes mentioned in this issue. His sound is more closely linked to the heavy blues guitar sounds of the 70's.

It's the one album that I'm most apt to play over and over, because there's plenty (I mean PLENTY) of feeling in Craig's fingers and the tones are sweet. At times it reminds me of Robin Trower and Stevie Ray. Ooh, it's so fluid! (Check out "Cold Wind")

Vocally, Craig sounds like a calm 'n' cool Frank Marino. I'd say that this is, hands-down, Craig's best project to date. His faith doesn't come out here loud 'n' clear, but his tunes reflect his Christian worldview and his sense of morality.

--DV

Various Artists Light From The Underground

Ocean

This musical buffet gives us offerings from four (once) up and coming alternative bands and a previously unreleased track from one of metal's hottest bands. More about that one later...

Union starts things off with the very cool Pearl Jam meets King's X tune, "Cry," then continues with "Everlasting" -- a song perfect for top-40 radio. The band finishes with the funky

"Run."

Austin based (and now defunct) band, The Cry, is next with their eclectic style. Songs like "Stone By Stone" and "Pictures of Babylon" really make me wonder why this artistic group never made it.

Spatt is next, with "Farm" and "Someday in May." More acoustic than electric, they really didn't keep my attention.

From Dallas comes the next band -- Trio of One. Their tunes, like "Nobody's Hero" and "Like You Love Me" show how good alternative can be, with their groovin' yet laid-back guitar sound and Charlie Peacock-like vocals.

To finish things off comes the granddaddies of hardcore -- The Crucified -- with a powerhouse tune called "Power of God." What a killer song. With Jim Chaffin's pounding double bass, Jeff Belew's throbbing bass, Greg's smokin' guitar, and Mark shouting, "know the power of God is alive!" This is a must have for Crucified fans.

Overall, this release does the job. It made me keep wanting to listen; and, since I'm a certified metal fan, I'd say that's a feather in Ocean Record's cap.

--Jeff Lott

MY LITTLE DOG CHINA Velvis Carnival

Alarma

With My Little Dog China's debut, "The Velvis Carnival," first impressions are important. Even before the first chord, the album slogan "It's the machine that churns blood to green" and opening argument found in the lyric sheet give an indication of the band's dedication and direction. They identify "The Machine" as "the music industry, media and church... We can either believe the lie and swallow the package the 'machine' spits out or we can try to destroy it by exposing it..." It's an individuality and non-conformist attitude that is only concerned with the truth. The punk spirit of MLDC and *The Velvis Carnival* is evident in more ways than one.

The music, a noise-pop/punk mixture that draws from the likes of Sonic Youth and Starflyer

59, is certainly rough enough to stand apart from the system on its own. Vocalist/guitarist Kevin Clay, bassist Mike Belfield and drummer Jason House are the noise culprits; producer Steve Hindalong (The Choir) is the associate in what might be his most aggressive board-work ever. Recorded pre- and post-ludes give the indication that the record was cut live in the studio; whatever the method, "Carnival" is very raw - very indie rock. The songs fluctuate between shouting out for attention ("Entanglement [The Web]," "Her Machining") to actually insert a hook or two ("Why?," "Eggshells"). Either way, it's a captivating, energetic, hard alternative.

Which is the phrase that could also describe the lyrics. Advanced beyond the normal debut, My Little Dog China identifies specific trappings and lies of today's greed-driven society and what it's like to try to live a holy life within it. The marvelous wordplay is enhanced by a handwritten lyric sheet with symbols that help determine the points. Often, only important phrases are printed that are integral to the song and album's theme. The song "Her Machining," from where the "blood to green" slogan originates, is framed by the beginning line of "I lose my mind for what I can find" and ending of "I lose my mind for what I can't find." Lyrical nuggets like these abound on "The Velvis Carnival," though it's much more rewarding to find them on your own.

Although by the uniqueness of their sound and spirit, it is possible to be drawn to My Little Dog China only by their music, one would be missing the relevance of the band's subject matter. And that they profess to not have all the answers is a refreshing stance. As they sing in the album's appropriately-titled "Listen," "In time you will find the questions are enough."

-Brent Hershey

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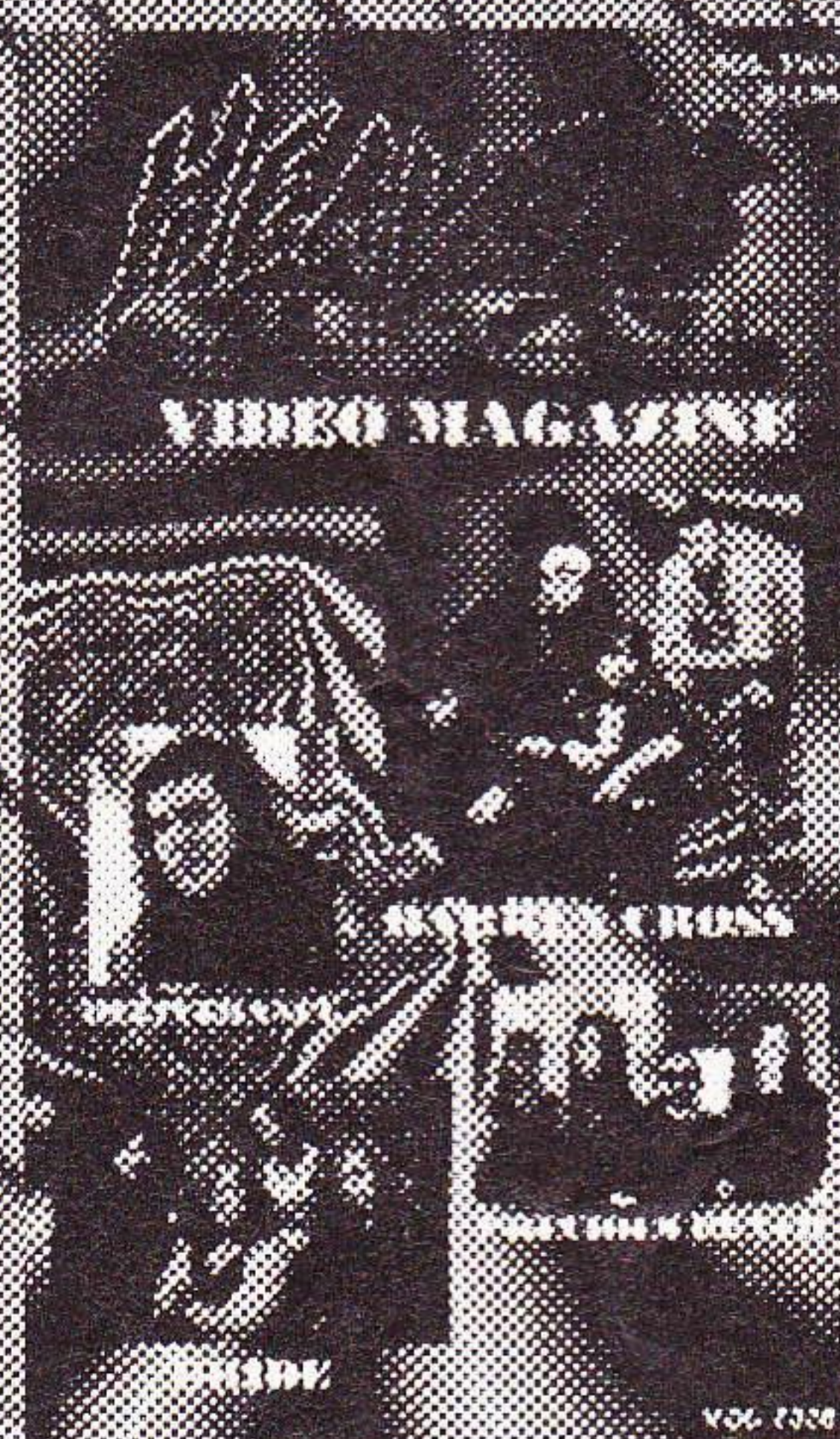
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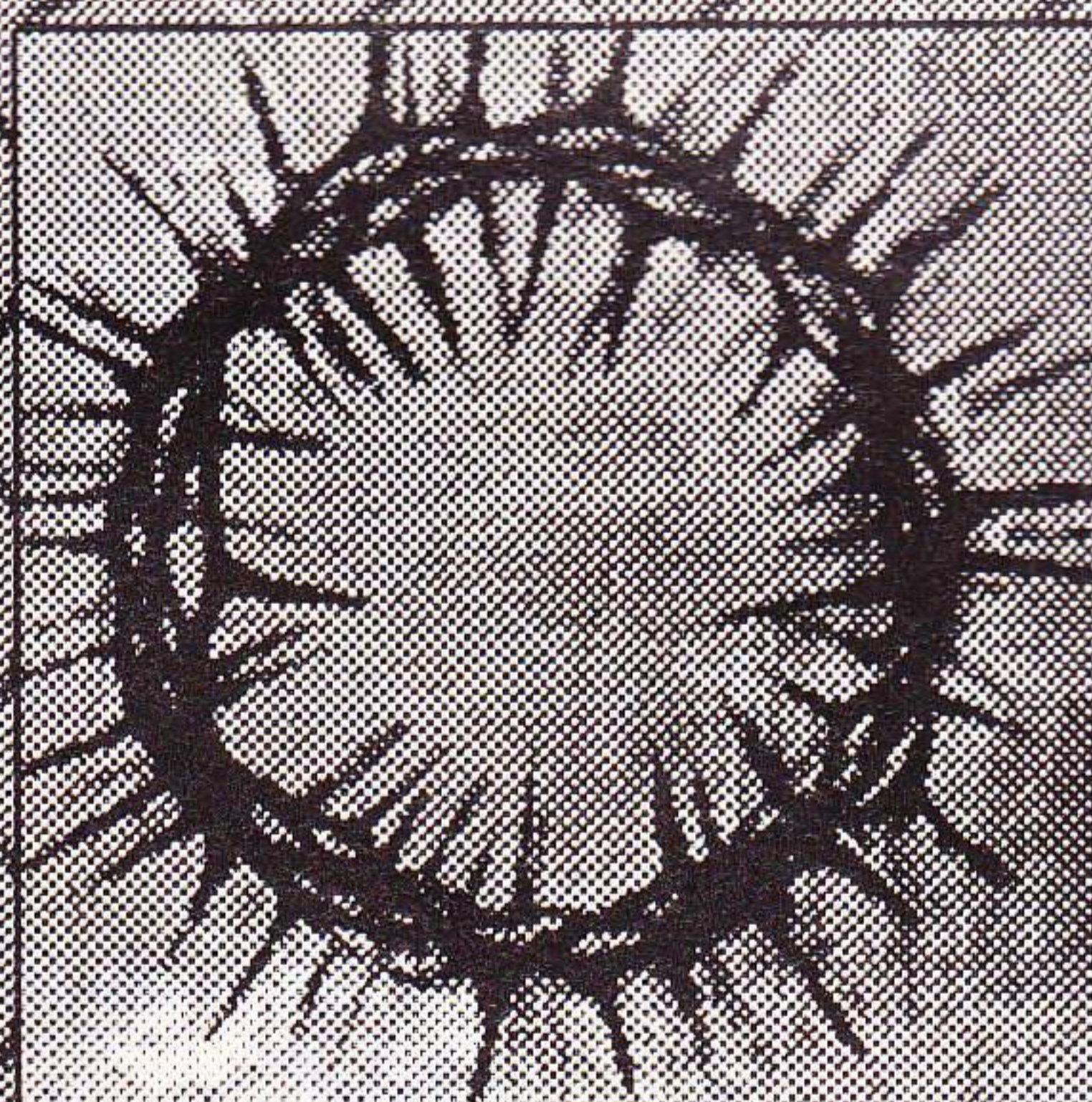


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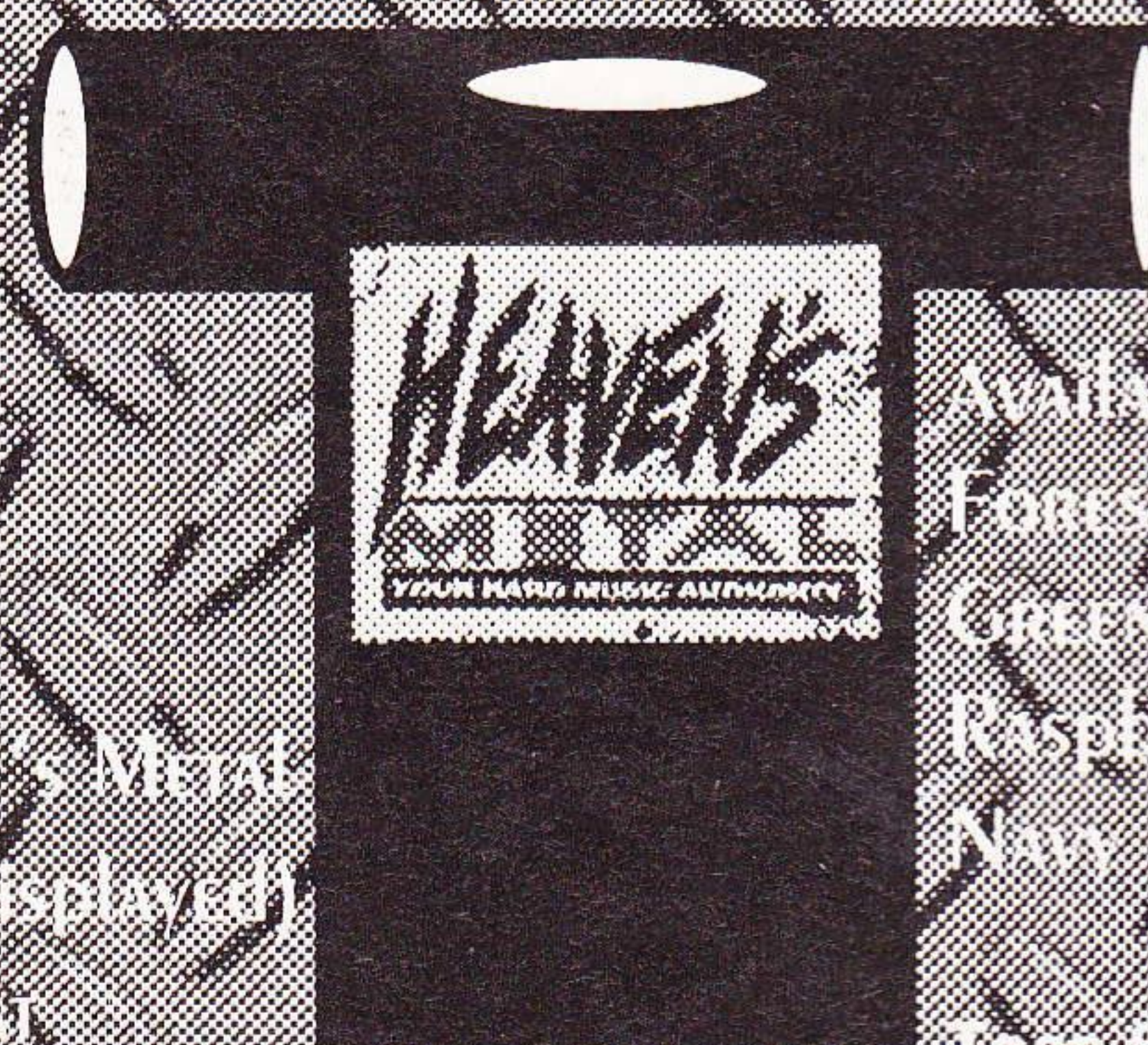


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PICK OF THE LITTER

a recording that would make a great tract for searching souls on beachfront property. DBB funks out in the sun -- the music sounds like it's alive alright. The live "vibe" carries through songs like "Peace Child," coasts through guitar-laden "Landslide." Lyrics are bold and direct, as Deven tells it like it is, and their musical style is tough enough to back it up.

These guys can show you a good time too . . . their rendition of Dylan's "Gotta Serve Somebody" is quite a choice. They can pull off the classic with their own colors and flavors, as they rip new guitar riffs and jams, while editing the lyric to their own favorite of Dylan's verses.

If you're looking for a deep, mind-stretching album, this may not be for you. This album reflects a bold group of people who take simple scripture and set it afire to some catchy music -- and it's actually quite refreshing.

--CT

ASHEN MORTALITY

Ian Arkley of 7th Angel fame is back with another Ashen Mortality tape. Coupled with his fiancée Melanie-Sarah Bolton, Ian takes a sledgehammer approach, striking hard, dark, and heavy. Playing long songs with several changes (4/5's of the songs clock in at around 10 minutes each!), they incorporate song dynamics like a singing organ sound or Melanie's voice. It's kinda like mixing prog rock with death doom vocals and crunchy heavy metal cereal. The tune "Imprisoned" is the best of the lot. It features a killer guitar picking intro and very dark sound. For ordering info, write: 74 Witley Avenue, Halesowen, West Midlands, B63-4DW, England.

--DV

PRIMARY CENSOR

Heavy! Loud! Incense! Now I know why these guys are scoring so many gigs around town! (like opening for Skrew). This is high quality material with high level sonics (much better than its muddy-sounding predecessor). It's aggressive music like these four tunes that make it understandable

TILES

This talented band reminds me of the clean, heady rock of a couple famous Canadian trios (Rush, Triumph). It makes me imagine what either of those two bands would sound like with Wallace Chase of 20/20 Blind on lead vocals. This compact disc is a real pleasant listen. The lyrics, while not mentioning any clear or overt reference to Christ, are

why industrial is part of the metal family. Fans of Circle will dig this, especially the first two cuts - "Judgemental" and "Negative."

For ordering info, write: Rotate Sound Productions, 7605 Yaupon Dr, Austin, TX 78759. (DV)

IGNITE

Australian trio Ignite has released this six-song demo of booming low end reminiscent of Sabbath meets Danzig. Ignite works from a crunchy power chord base, and several songs showcase a catchiness not often found in the independent metal songscope. "Sanctuary" starts off the tape with low, almost hushed vocals that build to a full, guitar-based chorus. Bassist Derek Garland has a gravelly, harsh set of pipes. For the most part, it works, although a few of the screams seem a little too strategically placed.

Both "Lungbuster" and "Bury The Past" employ a groove that leans toward the heavy pop/rock feel, and this is not a bad thing. On both, Taylor's guitar is prominent, and the Garland drummer, Rie Thomas, rhythm team keeps it together. "Nightmares" has some eerie guitar effects that illustrate the title and subject of the song, although the double-time thrash break seems like overkill. Lyrically, there are also several sparks that, with the right treatment, could mature into strong statements. Sure, recounting the ills of smoking in "Lungbuster" may initially seem a bit silly, but it shows Ignite's desire to touch some other issues. We all agree that the world doesn't need another "God Rules" band. Thankfully, that's one thing Ig-

thought-provoking and challenging. (Check out "Token Pledge" and "Bridges of Grace"). These Detroit musicians are very talented and have produced a product that's head and shoulders above most unsigned acts. For ordering info, write: Standing Pavement Entertainment, PO Box 75, Trenton, MI 48183.

--DV

nite isn't.

To order, send \$5 (Int'l Money Order; plus \$5 postage) to: Derek Garland, 80 Bunarba Rd, Gympie Bay, NSW 2227, Australia. (BH)

INNOCENT BLOOD

I enjoyed this full length, nine song release much better than their last three song tape.

Gone are the keyboards, which overshadowed their last release and as a result, Innocent Blood has cranked out some barn burning, bluesy hard rock. "Dr. Death" is a hot tune about abortion, "I Cry Out" is a plea for people to accept Jesus, while "Innocent Blood" (the song) talks about Jesus' sacrifice for all of us. There is only one mellow tune, "Undivided Heart," and with the exception of "Oh, Sorry" which is nothing more than a death metal growl, then the words "Oh, Sorry." (I loved it) This tape has some great foot tapping music on it. For ordering info, write: Kim Reid, 10 Chatelaine, Kirkland, QC, Canada H9J-2G7.

--JL

TRACY TOWNS

Oh my goodness! Jeff Scheetz and Rex Carroll may finally have some serious competition from this guitarist. While he did everything on this tape, it's Tracy's guitar playing that just slaps you across the face. He plays extremely fast one moment, then can find a groove that kills. Unfortunately, nothing else stands out on this nineteen song tape. He admits he's not a singer, and he wants to find a bassist, vocalist, and drummer. If he can, and they're as talented as he is, a

record contract should come their way real soon. Anyone interested? Send \$5 to: 101 Georgia Rd, Abilene, TX 79607.

-JL

DECIBELLUM

If this band were to be graded on ministry value, they deserve an A. Its obvious Decibellum has their priorities straight, ministry first and music second. But don't think the music is no good, in fact, it's hot! "Skin Peeled Back" is a smokin' tune about doing away with our old nature. "Human" and "We Love Jesus" are in the same vein, while "Somber Thoughts" is more of a radio oriented tune. No names are listed, but let me say the singer wails and the guitarist just smokes! The production is decent and the tape is free. Talk about ministry! Believe me, you have nothing to lose and everything to gain! For ordering info, write: Pastor John Stewart, Rt. 2 Box 196, Joplin, MO 64804.

-JL

THRASH PUPPIES

First of all, not every song is thrash, but that's why I enjoyed "Unleashed." These guys are more in the vein of Hot Pink Turtle and Dig Hay Zoose. Humorous lyrics and heavy music. The speed comes out in songs like "Thrash Puppies" and "Fastest Song in the World." The humor comes out in "That T-Shirt Won't Save You" and "I Said, There's Been A Big Mistake, Hey, I'm Wearing A Satan Sucks T-Shirt, I Should Have Gone the Other Way!" The songs were recorded live and the production is pretty decent. If you enjoy good music, comedy and strong Christian views, get "Unleashed." For ordering info, write: Heath T.W. McSolvin, 10 Sainsbury Ave, Greensborough 3088, Australia.

-JL

DANCING SKELETON

At the Rockfest in Marble Falls, Texas back in July, this band rocked everyone's brains out. Evan Slamcat guitarist Janna Fishback could be seen moshing up front during their set. Could this be because they're both from Tulsa, OK? I don't Think

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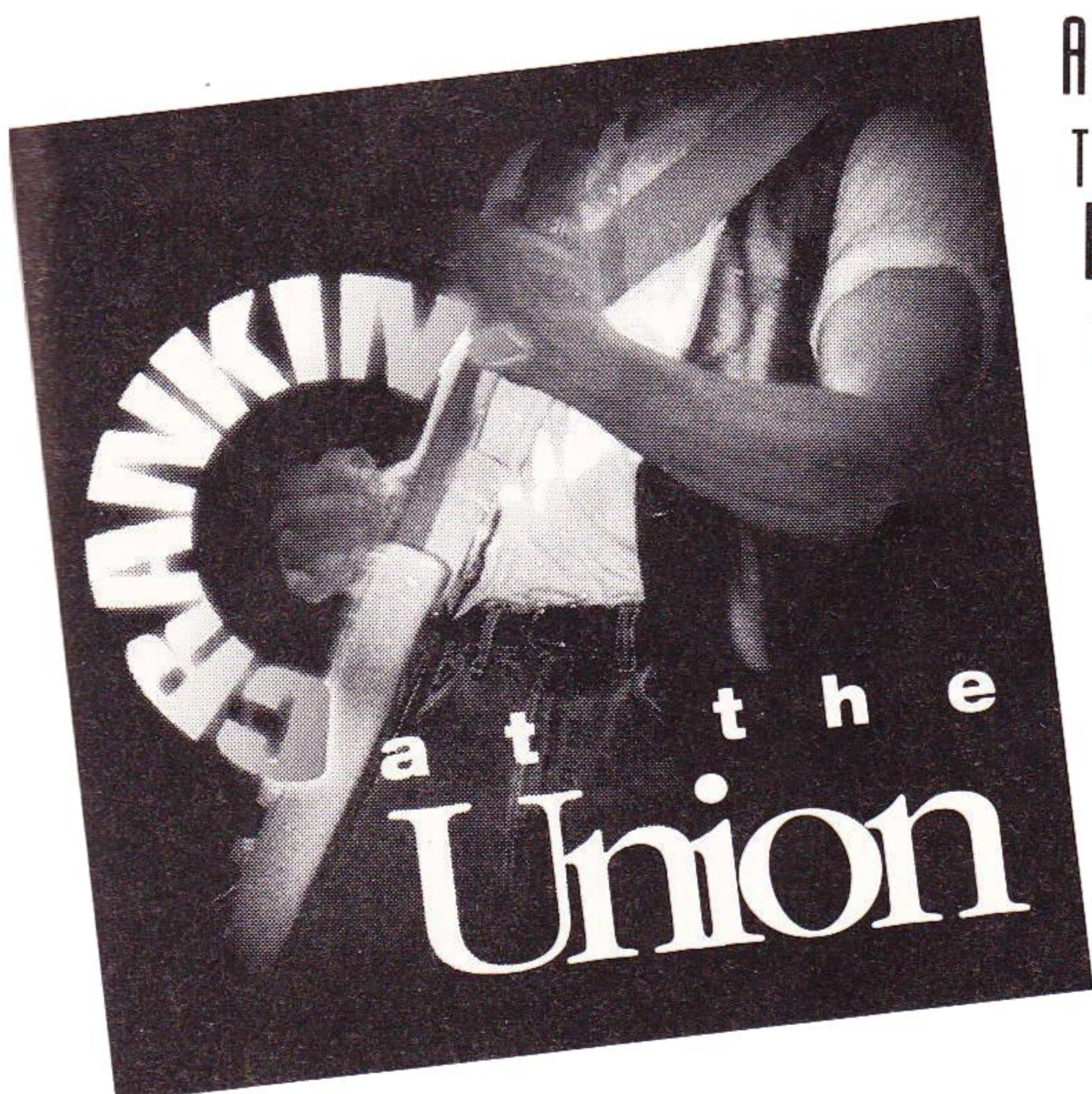
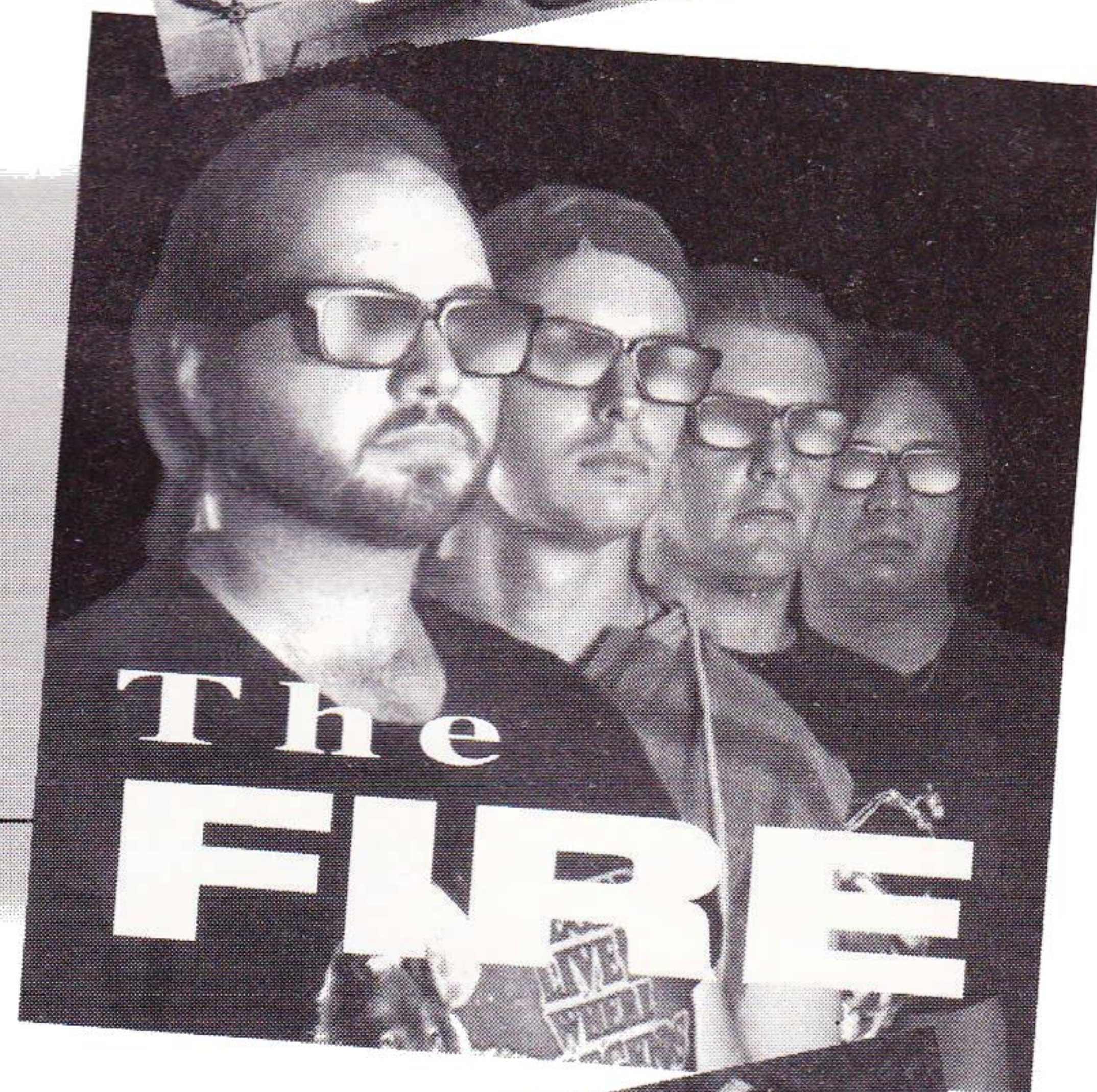
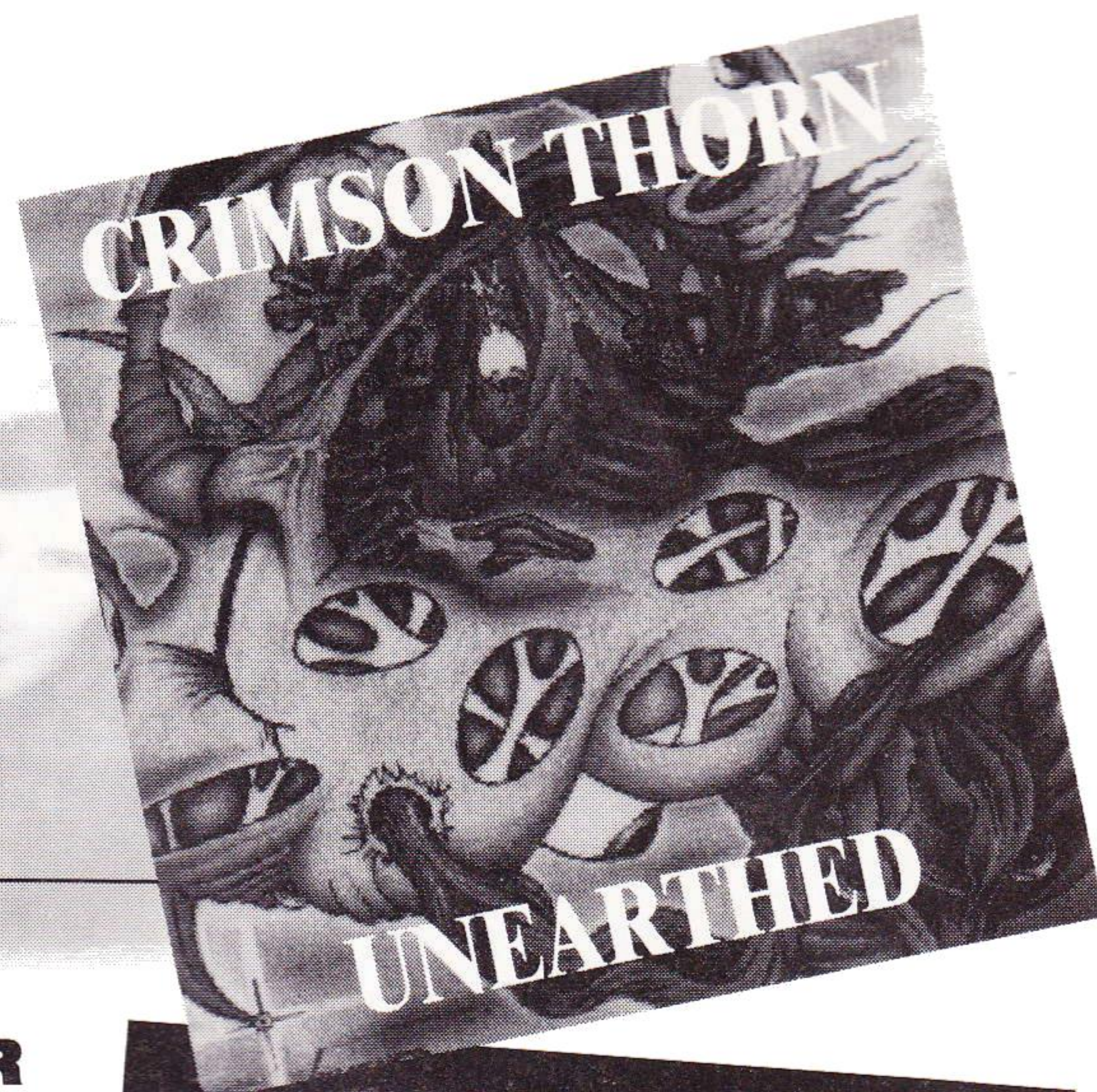
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so. The three songs presented here are extremely intense. "Blasphemous Lies" utilized some thrash instincts, otherwise, they're just plain heavy. The other two songs, "Twisted Lies" and the traditional hymn, "Amazing Grace" show a little Slamcat influence, which is alright by this reviewer. This is a really hot effort from a promising young band. The name is pretty catchy too! This should be on everyone's "gotta get a hold of" list. For ordering info, write: PO Box 9392, Tulsa, OK 74157. (JL)

AETURNUS

Oh my! I hear plenty of aggression and intensity here! I only wish the production could have been as hot as the music. There are four tunes here, my favorite being "Death From Above." I definitely smell a big Pantera Influence here. If these guys can get a higher quality tape out production wise, record labels should be busting their doors down. For ordering info, write: John Gibson, 2105 S. Owings, Oak Grove, MO 64075. (JL)

PLAIN CLOTHES

A bit more flashy than their name implies, Plain Clothes take hold with a solid 9-song independent release titled Long Way to Go. Fortunately, the album title doesn't apply to their musical talents, either. Professional, surprisingly slick power metal in a Stryper/Tamplin vein is the initial attention-grabber; that the wall of sound comes from only a trio is another. Scott (bass, vocals), Todd (guitar, vocals), and Matt (drums, vocals) are active, sharing vocal, songwriting and performance duties better than some five-piece bands. The title cut, along with "Can't Stand the Heat" and "Honest to God" are the standout tracks.

Lyricaly, Plain Clothes are not spell-binding, but not banal, either. "Long Way To Go" is a vulnerable, personal confession that all is not perfect -- an attitude that should be shared more often, and one that gets the band off on the right foot. A similar sincere desire for reconciliation is the subject of "Honest to God," and "Sin is Sin" warns that there is only one way to heaven, and just being a good person isn't it. "Hallelujah to Ya!" closes the tape with a track that takes cues from the rap-group shout-outs (though no in rap style) to other Christian rock performers: "Carman is addicted, Petra knows the way/And Dale and Troy are here to stay/Rez is on the rampage, Satan takes a loss/Daily take up your Whitecross."

The production throughout is very clean, and give everything, this suit fits. Write to: Victam Productions, PO Box 471393, Tulsa, OK 74147. (BH)

THE SONSHINES

This three-song demo from the

Great White North showcases the SONshines in a classic rock-radio vein. Well produced, the SONshines take a cue from '70s and '80s power/art rock bands like Kansas and Yes. "Without You" starts it off with low, easy acoustic guitar-and-vocal verse that builds to a heavily-accented, anthem chorus. A familiar theme of relying on God, not self, to get through life is the subject here. Track two, "Love Is," starts out heavy from the get-go - a full, commercial metal sound, complete with appropriate back up vocals and a catchy rhythm. Basically I Corinthians put to music, the song is both musically muscular and thematically well-built. The final cut is all acoustic that speaks of the quality of devotion in a relationship (either earthly or heavenly). It's only voice and guitar to start, with some cool light percussion (shakers and the like) added as the tune goes on.

In all, the SONshines have put together a diverse 3-song tape that rates a bit higher than most efforts like these. And it's all yours for \$6 to: Joey Francis, 87 Banner Rd., Nepean, ONT Canada K2H 9K9 (BH)

OBLATION

If you've seen the video "Dead Unborn" on the Heaven's Metal Video Magazine, then you're already aware of the quality of music this band can deliver. Oblation have surpassed themselves with this three-song demo. I couldn't decide which song I enjoyed most, because all three are incredible. The production here is outstanding, so there's no reason not to turn it up. Dallas has a lot of young talented bands, but at this point I'd have to say Oblation is at the top of their class.

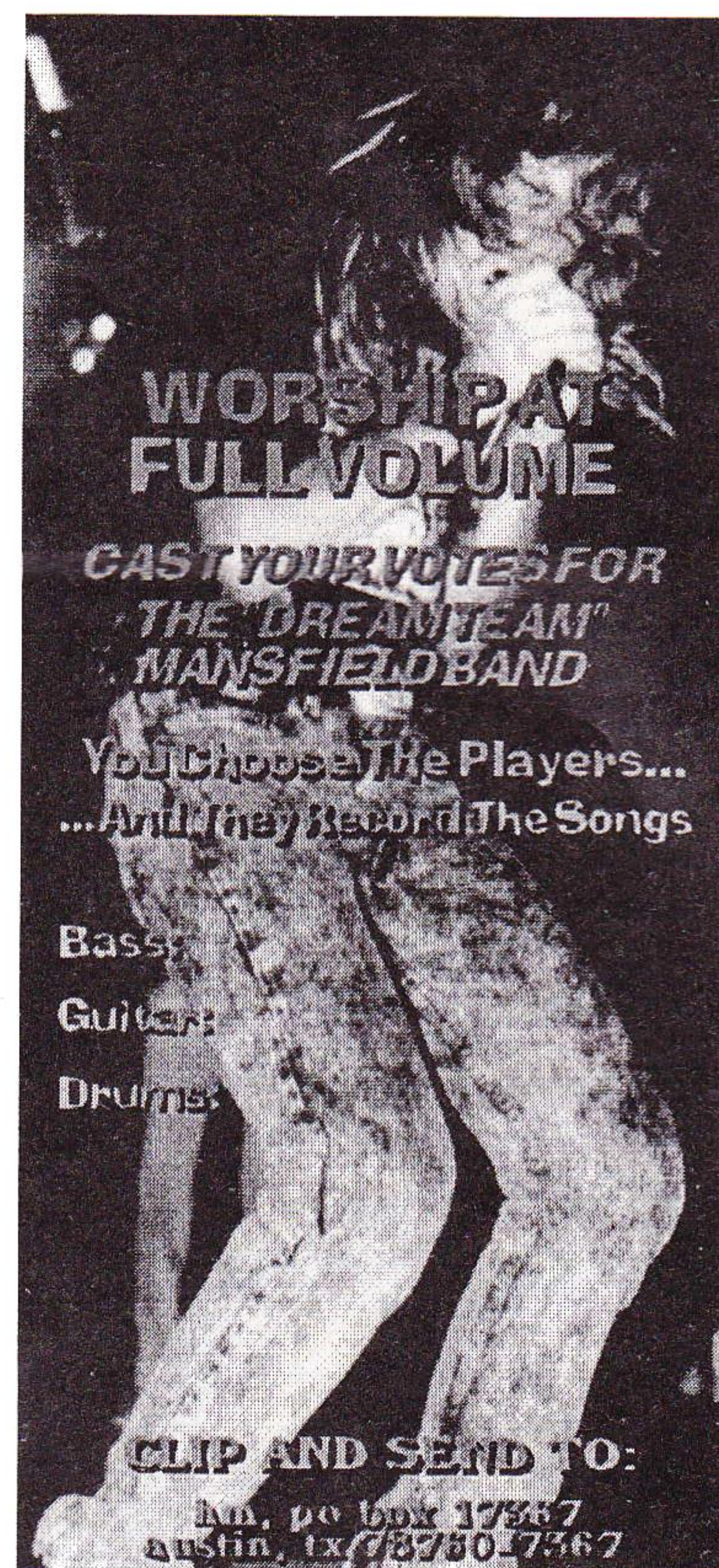
For ordering info, write: Reese Management, 14232 Marsh Lane #143, Dallas, TX 75234. (JL)

HOLY SCEPTRE

I definitely hear some old Deliverance influence in this band from St. Louis, Missouri. There are six songs here, ranging from average length, like "Condemnation," to the 11-minute "Demonic." Lyricaly, Holy Sceptre has put a lot of time and effort into what they want to say, from the second coming of Christ, in "The Return," to abortion, in "Infanticide."

Musically, while the talent is obviously there, I think they have a little way to go before coming into the big leagues. Sometimes the BGV's go off key, like in "Dark Deeds," and, in my opinion, the double bass in "Modern Day Jesus Freaks" just doesn't seem to be able to keep up. "Knowledge of the Holy" is a lot better than some stuff I've heard. With a little more improvement, they could be the next big act.

For ordering info, write: John Effinger, 9912 Benson Ave, St. Louis, MO 63074. (JL)



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AFTERDEATH

Here is some really dark sounding death metal from Brazil's Afterdeath. There are four new tunes, plus the bonus cut, "Credo," from their first tape (reviewed in Issue #40). "The Crucified" starts things off with a really low-tuned guitar sound. After reading what the guys say in their credits, I gather this tune is about the problems in Rowanda. "Fake Friend" is self-explanatory. "Malevolent Factory" talks about rampant sin and the punishment for it. The production isn't great, but the talent this band possesses really shines above it.

To order, send \$5 to: R. Filomeno Ribeiro, 76, 25016-130 Vitoria, ES, Brazil.

--JL

VINDICATION

I haven't heard a release sound this good in a long time. For starters, the production is incredible, pretty close to album quality. Secondly, it sounds as if these three guys practiced the four songs here non-stop, because they sound really tight.

"Out In The Cold" starts things off with a gothic appeal. Other songs, like "The Sin Factor" and the title cut, "Exhume The Grave," show off the talents of this hot band. Even the cover artwork is sharp. Fans of thrash and the Deliverance "chugga-chugga" sound shouldn't have any problems drooling all over this tape. For ordering info, write: 8548 Briarbrook Circle, Orangevale, CA 95002. (JL)

ELIAS

Out of Canada comes Elias, a power yet commercial band with four rockin' tunes. Lyrically, all four songs pretty much have the same idea: that sin is the cause of man's problems, and Jesus is the solution to man's need. "When things ain't going your way and everything seems hopeless, you need Jesus Christ to pick the pieces off the floor." (from "Loud N' Clear")

Musically, "Vain" is the best tune, which they say is the heavier direction they're heading. The guitar leads here are

quite impressive. This song represents the power, while the other three represent commercial. If the band can knock out more songs like "Vain," then this will be a band to watch. For ordering info, write: 130 Lindsay Ave, Winnipeg, MB, Canada, R3N-2G8. (JL)

BONES OF ADAM

Is there a style called Groove Hardcore? Actually, there's a rainbow of styles here: a little thrash, hardcore, some straight-ahead metal; you name it. The lyrics on "This Hunger" are delivered with a little rap attitude. "Crawl" at times reminded me of The Crucified. After the songs, the band spends some time clowning around about being sued. The production is pretty decent, so all you hardcore fans shouldn't have any problem getting into Bones of Adam.

To order, send \$4 to: PO Box 3509, Grand Rapids, MI 49501. (JL)

SEVENFOLD

In the tradition of MTV's Unplugged, Sevenfold has stripped down five tunes to Sheryl Ellenberger's vocals and Robert Carlton's guitars. What can be said that hasn't been before? The creativity these two possess is amazing. Songs like "Blocking Your View" and "Just The Way I Am" sound great. This is Sevenfold of the past, though, since we reported in Issue #49 that former Seventh Sign vocalist Brenda Barnett has replaced Sheryl, we'll have to wait and see if the style will continue.

For ordering info, write: PO Box 681, Mt. Sinai, NY 11766. (JL)

SERAPHIM

I really enjoyed this band's last three-song demo, but it doesn't hold a candle to this 10-song piece of power metal. From the opening chord of "Overcome" to the sassiness of "Can't Lose It" to the smokin' hot lead in "Reach Out," it's quite obvious Seraphim were ready to rock; and, believe me, they have no problem in this area. While drummer Brian Biter and bassist Mike Serrano held the rhythm together, it was guitarist

Andrew Rhoades with his blazing leads and vocalist Darin Helton and his wailing vocals that blew me away.

This tape gets better with every listen; so, if you enjoy melodic metal, get this tape before they run out! For ordering info, write: 5300 Plaza St, Portage, IN 46368. (JL)

SABAOTH

Did you wanna mosh on the Sabaoth without fear? Now you can! Yes, you too can soothe your mind to the melodic tunes of Sabaoth. Sabaoth has a bone-crunching rhythm and bass section, not to mention ear-piercing solos, and ground shaking vocals. Karl Krueger and Mark Hathke work together like a well-oiled machine through all of the songs. The song "Without Fear" will keep you on your toes. The time changes and key movements are great. "Mindslave" has a brief acoustic work in it that will have you saying, "Hey! What was that?" Scott Eton and David "Igg" Eagle are hard working dudes! They work vigorously with each other, keeping the tempo and thump going. Roger Bond keeps the screams alive with vengeance and power in his vocals. Sabaoth speaks about drug abuse, spiritual awareness, and abortion, just to name a few topics. Headbangers will enjoy this album -- lyrically, musically, and faithfully. In other words, Sabaoth's new album, Without Fear, is great! To order, send \$7.50 to: Scott Eton, 878 Vine Street, Harrisonburg, VA 22801.

--Jason Clifton

POSSESSION

These guys shred! This 3-song EP, called The Unnameable Suffering, is on compact disc, but the sound fluctuates like it was a tape losing particles. The vocals of Nyk E. go off the Richter scale a few times -- to the detriment of the song, but most of the time they're fine growls. The musicians are smokin' hot, though, through and through. There's tight guitar playing with skilled leads and a locked-in rhythm section. The graphics and lyrics are done in such a way to tell the truth, but attract the de-

ceived flock to it.

To order, send \$4 to: PO Box 3031, Olathe, KS 66063-1031. (DV)

SLAVETRADE

This group of bondslaves cranks out their tunes in the hard rock vein of Bride, with melodic leanings a la Angelica. While ranking as little brothers to their Louisville influence, they still capture a pretty good attitude. The production sonics and vocal melody lines keep this quartet in the minor leagues, though.

The tune "Lonely Road" is a great idea (musically along the lines of a Skid Row ballad), yet Troy Rowell's lead vocals aren't strong enough to carry it over the top.

Available through Spring Arbor. To special order, use this #: 000-501-6045.

--DV

DISENCUMBRANCE

From my hometown of Dallas, Texas, comes Disencumbrance, one of the best death metal bands I've ever heard. There are only two songs here: "Mark of Death," which is referring to the mark of the beast described in Revelation; and "The Dead are Among Us," which I believe is a song about people who don't know Jesus.

The music here is incredibly intense. Drummer Karel Fiferna must have arms of steel to drum as well as he does. Vocalist Joe Espinoza has that typical Steve Rowe voice, but the music is so hot, it's easy to overlook it. The production is first class, which made this tape much more enjoyable. Get this one at all costs! For ordering info, write: 14232 Marsh Lane #143, Dallas, TX 75234.

--JL

MAX BLAM JAM

With this band featuring two members of Deliverance from the speed metal days, I expected a fret-burning fest. That was not the case. What is here, however, is some great bluesy rock and roll. "Apathy's Child" and "Rescue Me" are all-out rockers, while "Because (Lucy's Song)" is a softer acoustic treat.

HM #50

ATTENTION!

CHRISTIAN METAL BANDS AND CHRISTIAN METAL FANS!

Dear Partners in Christian Metal Ministry,

Steve Rowe here from Mortification just writing to let you know about an exciting venture which I hope that you can become part of. It has become very evident in recent months that many Mortification fans who write to us and order merchandise from us are very interested in other Christian metal bands especially those on the underground scene.

Many of you would have heard about the beginning of my Christian metal label, Rowe Productions. Apart from signing and releasing Australian Christian Metal bands in a big way, I am also wanting to help many other ministries get started in a smaller way. Every little bit helps when you consider the daunting task of breaking out of the underground to be recognised by a larger audience both in the Christian and non-Christian metal scenes. We, at Rowe Productions, are wanting to help smaller unknown bands make a name for themselves around the world.

Mortification is a full-time Christian Metal Ministry and through our mailing list and world wide tours we come into contact with literally thousands of metal fans who are into the music you guys are creating. The only problem I guess you have is getting your product into their hands.

At Rowe Productions we are wanting to give the world's underground Christian Metal scene the opportunity to be recognised and established and to help in any way that we can. We are wanting to sell your independently released demo's, custom cassettes and CD's through the

mail and at our concerts.

We are mainly looking for product from heavy metal, thrash metal, death metal or hard core bands but are basically willing to give anything a try as long as it fits into the category of hard music. The reason we are mainly focusing on the heavy stuff is because that's the stuff our audience buys most readily. If you are interested in working with us, please send us a copy of your project to check out the quality of production, songs, packaging and amount of songs and we will get back to you.

No project is too under-budget or over-budget so there shouldn't be a reason we wouldn't work with you as long as we can come to mutually beneficial financial agreement. We should be able to sell most demo's for about \$8US., custom tapes for \$12US. and CD's for \$15US. A normal agreement would be \$3US. for demo tapes, \$5US. for custom tapes and \$7US. for CD's coming back to you guys. Hope this sounds fair, we are wanting to be fair to both yourselves and our business and please understand the enormous cost of international postage and international advertising. Generally we will start with 40 units and as they sell we will order more. All projects will be taken on consignment and you will be paid quarterly for the units that sell for that 3 month period.

I guess this is a case of us helping you to also help ourselves in our world-wide mission to bring the message of Christ to the unsaved and the voice of encouragement to our Christian Metal brothers. As much as we are a business we are genuinely wanting to help you guys make a smooth start with your endeavours and I'm

sure you will agree that 40 units of your project is better in our hands than sitting on a shelf at home with no potential for sale. Please also be assured that we are a ministry orientated company and we give a lot of stuff away.

Recently on tour I took many copies of the Australian Christian Metal compilation, "God-speed" and as much as we sold many copies, many were also given out to the unsaved to not only give them the Gospel through the lyrics but also to show them the hand of Christian friendship and generosity. The Lord is really opening up the world's doors for Mortification so we can genuinely help you. We just toured Europe, USA and Canada. In Europe we played a festival with Napalm Death, Entombed and Sick of It All. We also played the bigger Christian festivals such as Cornerstone.

What more can I say, the offer is open to you all, so please send us a sample of your project and hopefully we can come to a mutually beneficial arrangement.

Yours in His service,

Steve Rowe
Steve Rowe

If you wish to be on the Mortification/ Rowe Productions mailing list please write to Rowe Productions. PO Box 339, Mentone, Vic. 3194 Australia.

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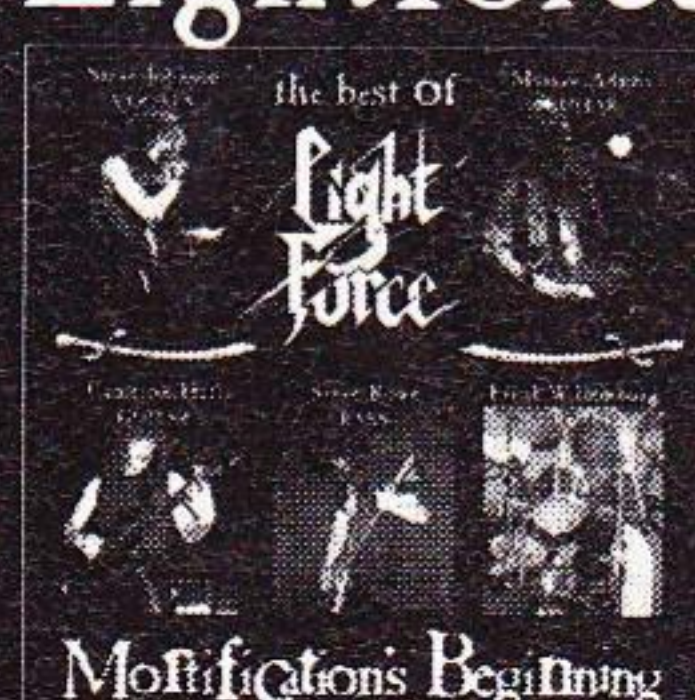
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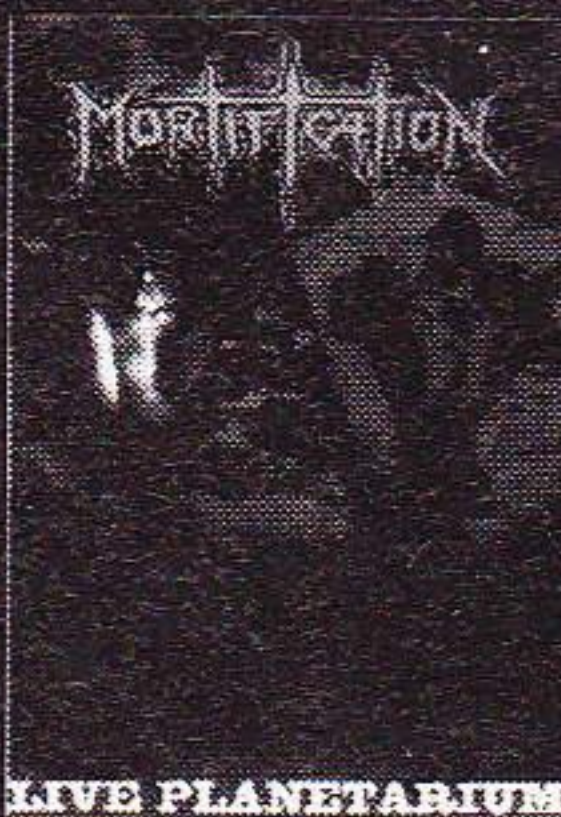


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MORTIFICATION

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Grind Planets	Video	\$27 US	■
Bloodworld Long sleeve	T-Shirt	\$20 US	■
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Mortification cartoon	T-Shirt	\$18 US	■
Godspeed	CD	\$15 US	■
Best of Lightforce	CD	\$15 US	■
Minstrel Novel		\$10 US	■

Upcoming releases.

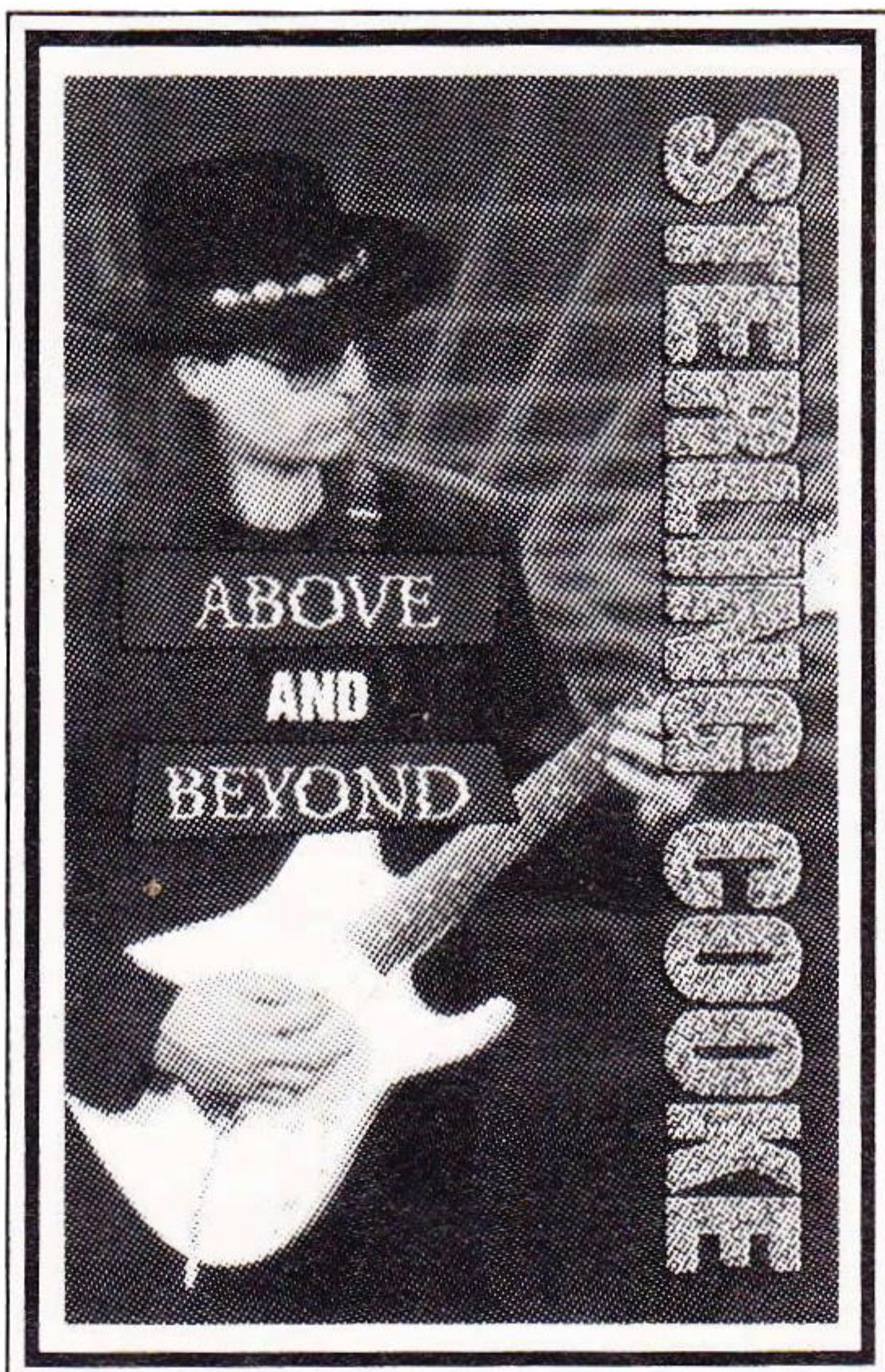
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Former Deliverance bassist Brian Khairullah is the vocalist here, and sounds similar to Jimmy Brown and Axl Rose. Former Deliverance guitarist, Glenn Rogers, displays his talent here, although not near as intense as his playing on the Deliverance debut.

This is a solid effort worth looking into. For ordering info, write: 22813 Caroldale Ave, Carson, CA 90745.

--JL

HATE COMMITTEE

With a sledge-hammer vocal sound a la Kurt Bachman, Hate Committee pounds out some pretty cool groove-driven semi-hardcore stuff. Influences abound, from the quirkiness of interruptive thought that is capitalized in the industrial genre to the shouting chants of raw punk. Check out the howls of "death to the feminist movement!" in "Feminist."

Beavis, Butthead, and other Helmet fans will dig this. For ordering info, write: Gregory Scott, 8822 Raven Oaks Dr, Omaha, NE 68152. (DV)

STERLING COOKE

Here's a very clean guitar instrumental 11-song tape with some skilled and competent playing. Showing a penchant for diversity, Sterling shows he would do well in a band situation. He shows his funkiness in "Walkin' Shoes," and his hard blues rock influence in "Fred Zeplin" (a hot "Still of the Night" like tune named after a guy who hit his truck on the way to a gig) and "Rainbow Bridge." The best moments come in the melodic pieces "Greenpeace," "Reflections," and the title track, where Sterling lets his guitar sing. The only downer is his cover of "Frankenstein." I figure, if you're gonna cover a classic, go one up on it. This performance recalls the greatness of the original without surpassing it. The "Whole Lotta Love" solo is thrown in for good measure, but the drum machine doesn't deliver the goods.

Overall, though, these nice sonics and good songs make Above And Beyond a good listen. To order, send \$10 to: Full Force Music, PO Box 187, Tamaqua, PA 18252-0187.

--DV

FINAL WARNING

For the first minute of the tune, "Greed Kills," I thought this was just another thrash band. After that first minute, though, I started to enjoy this tape. I started noticing a lot of complexity and just plain heaviness. My favorite song is "Blind Faith." It is a double bass bonanza with a strong Tourniquet vibe to it. The title cut is a cool song about how easy it is for Satan to control one's life, although the song ends giving the Gospel message without compromise.

The production here is pretty decent, so you can turn it up! Final Warning is a pretty hot band, and Figurehead is a great tape that deserves a listen. For ordering info, write: 9041 El Dorado Parkway #22, El Cajon, CA 92021.

--JL

VALLEY OF BONES

Now this is metal at its best. Crunchin' guitars, brain splitting drums, and great, aggressive vocals. This "project" by vocalist, guitarist, and bassist John Johnson and drummer Jason Campbell really shows off their talents. Its not thrash or death, its not classic metal. Picture the current speed of Deliverance with the intensity of, say Mortification, and you have a good idea of what Valley Of Bones sounds like. The production on these ten songs is a little bass happy, so turn that down a little. Even former Killed By Cain vocalist John Warren backs up John on "Total Aggression." This is a quality effort by a talented duo. Imagine what Valley Of Bones would sound like with a complete band! For ordering info, call (502) 499-8950.

--JL

GROMS

Groms are a thrash influenced five-piece band from Kristiansand in Norway. Turn is their first demo recorded last summer when the band were on tour in Poland. The tape consists of four songs. There's some fast stuff with lots of rhythm changes, and slow stuff like the kind Seventh Angel did. Melodies, lyrics and production are fairly good, but there is still a way to go. More structure in the songwriting and vocal improvements and more crunch to the rhythm section are needed, and I'm quite sure that Groms will come up with a much better offering next time. Turn shows promising tendencies, but not more than just that. The band have played several live gigs lately and I have reason to believe that they have made some progress that will make their next demo far more interesting than Turn. I look forward to that one. For info, write: c/o H. Johannessen, Manganvn. 5, N-4629 Kristiansand, Norway.

--Anders Joh Blisten

CLAY

Here's a rough-edged hardcore tape with 5 songs that live up to the tape's title -- Movement. These songs go after it -- the only thing holding it back being the garage production. The guys know how to craft a good song, though, using break down dynamics to give the tune diversity. Clay can also slug it out with the heaviest of 'em. "That Song You Wrote" finds vocalist John Deas gettin' the lead out the most. To order, send \$5 to: 312 W. Davie, Anna, IL 62906.

--DV

Michelle Deneen

"Here's a melodic rock EP with the strong voice of Michelle, the sonics are top notch. Fans of Margaret Becker's first album should dig this. Very Cool."

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-Michael Demus - "Toymakers Dream"

"Michelle is extremely focused, her attitude is positive, she is dedicated to her music and her God. With proper direction she could go far. 'Awesome voice'. This is the best project I have ever accomplished."

-Michael S. Tyrrell - "Mylon and Broken Heart" and "Dora" Pesh

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GRIEVANCE HONOR

This band knows how to find a groove and stay there. I would describe this band as grunge, because I don't know of any other description that fits more accurately. Grievance Honor has put together six songs of intense "Grindage." Songs like "Ichabod" and "Disposable Humanity" grab you by the throat and don't let go. The production is great, which allowed me to crank it and really enjoy. If you haven't had your daily requirement of metal, let Grievance Honor supply you with some Grindage. You'll be glad you did. For ordering info, write: c/o Tony Pezzo, 4743 Ray Ave, St. Louis, MO 63116.

--JL

METANOIA

Out of Australia comes Mortification's little brother, Metanoia. This is one of the heaviest bands I've heard in a while. Their drummer, Dylan Speestra, is really hot. There are

six songs here, and their titles are quite morbid, like "Dead Flesh," "Torn by Dogs" and "Ripped in Two." The production is average, so it is listenable, but keep it at medium volume, or you might blow your speakers! Fans of thrash/death metal are sure to eat this up.

To order, send an international money order in Australian dollars for \$10 (plus \$A5 postage) to: S. Bennett, 12 Karangi St, Rasmussen, T'Ville, QLD, 4815, Australia.

--JL

CRUCIFER

Crucifer. n. 1. cross-bearer. 2. band from Stafford, Virginia...that belts out a 7-song tape of complex death metal. Good news first -- most of the lyrics are artistic, creative, and yet still full-on: "Waves of sorrow crash on the shores of sin/black clouds forming, because you gave in." (from the song "Crucifer")

Now the bad news -- "Pieces" is the catchiest song on

the tape, but even with a lyric sheet, you're left wondering about its point. The music overall suffers from a lack of focus -- all the different elements (from rap beats to scattershot drumming) clash much more than they blend. I'd say that most of these songs are diamonds in the rough; but, if you want something different, try this. Available for \$7 from A.R.T., PO Box 770446, Coral Springs, FL 33077-0446.

--Mike Tulloch

Publicity

Dennis Stricker (Book)

Here's a simple principled book that reads like a cross between a miracle cure claim and an info-mercial on the in's and out's of getting publicity for your product, business, or band.

Definitely worth its price for the entrepreneur. For ordering info, write: MMM Books, 2318 W. 182nd St, Torrance, CA 90504.

--DV

MONDO CANE

This is late 70's/early 80's raw street punk at its best. *Real California Cheese* was recorded back in September of '92, and is just now seeing the light of day. This 8-song tape has decent production; but, as usual, turn down the bass a little.

This is a decent effort. The only thing I didn't care for was the use of "hell" as a curse word in the songs "Fog In A" and "Rebellious Conformity." There's just no need for that. Otherwise, this is worth checking into. To order, send \$6 to: Mark Wilkens, 276 Capp St, San Francisco CA 94110.

--JL

Several of these rare tapes and CD's can be found via mail-order from the following businesses: Rad Rocker's Emporium, 370 Greentree Lane, Milan, MI 48160; or Long's Christian Music, PO Box 547336, Orlando,

TOUR DATES

TOURS

These dates are booked well in advance, so please check with the numbers listed for confirmation of the concert. If the mood strikes you, send in your review of the show...it may get printed in Heaven's Metal!

GUARDIAN		
11/1	San Antonio TX	818-972-1889
11/5	Longview TX	"
11/11	Atlanta GA	"
11/12	Nashville TN	"
11/19	Kansas City MO	"
11/26	Tulsa OK	"
12/31	Buena Park CA	"
LOVEWAR		
10/28	Warsaw IN	219-267-2568
11/12	Whitehouse TN	615-672-2027
11/19	Evansville IN	812-468-4283
12/2	Howe IN	219-562-3236
MICHAEL SWEET		
11/1	Waterloo IA	601-924-2916
11/3	Columbus OH	"
11/4	Akron OH	"
11/5	Greenville OH	"
11/6	Washington DC	"
11/8	Memphis TN	"
11/10	Omaha NE	"

11/11	Minneapolis MN	601-924-2916
11/12	Chicago IL	"
11/13	Nashville TN	"
11/15	Birmingham AL	"
11/17	Atlanta GA	"
11/18	Greenville SC	"
11/19	Charlotte SC	"
11/20	Pittsburgh PA	"
11/22	Buffalo NY	"
11/23	Boston MA	"
NONPOINT FACTOR		
11/14	Atlanta GA	303-978-8952
SIX FEET DEEP		
12/3	Irving TX	817-320-1588
MORTAL		
11/4	Irving TX	817-320-1588
UNASHAMED		
12/17	Little Rock AR	# not available
12/28	St. Louis MO	"
12/30	Milwaukee WI	"
12/31	Minneapolis MN	"
1/2	Grand Rapids MI	"
1/3	Cleveland OH	"
1/5	Virginia Beach VA	"
1/6	Myrtle Beach SC	"
1/7	Tampa FL	"
1/10	Atlanta GA	"

RockMusicReport

LOUD CHART

September 26

TM TITLE Artist (Label)

1	BEARING GRUESOME CARGO	Tourniquet (Intense)
2	BEAST	Bride (StarSong)
3	STRUGGLE	Six Feet Deep (R.E.X.)
4	CRAWL	Sometime Sunday (Tooth & Nail)
5	TORQUE	Chatterbox (Tooth & Nail)
6	YOUR LIFE	Mortification (Intense)
7	LIE TO ME	Under Midnight (WAL)
8	DARKENED	Living Sacrifice (R.E.X.)
9	AM I IN SYNC?	Circle of Dust (R.E.X.)
10	RANSOM	Scaterd Few (Sopa Records) HIGHEST GAINER
11	VOICE OF DEFIANCE	Crashdog (Grrr/R.E.X.)
12	OCEAN	Wish For Eden (Tooth & Nail)
13	SEPARATION	The Blamed (Tooth & Nail)
14	CRAWL	Prayer Chain (Reunion)
15	TIME FOR LOVE	Barren Cross (Rugged)
16	PAINTED REALITY	Detritus (R.E.X.)
17	TELLTALE CRIME	Brainchild (R.E.X.)
18	NO APOLOGY	Believer (R.E.X.) HIGHEST DEBUT
19	SOULSHAKER	Red Sea (Rugged)
20	SLATHERIDGE	Dig Hay Zoose (BAI)

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	BRIDE		CLASH OF SYMBOLS
2	Going Public	14	Southpaw
	NEWSBOYS		PRECIOUS DEATH
3	Nailed/Take Up Your Cross	15	Jawboneofanass
	THE CRUCIFIED		SCATERD FEW
4	Welcome Race Fans	16	Spill
	DAKODA MOTOR CO.		PLANK EYE
5	Drowning With Land In Sight	17	Trust
	SEVENTY SEVENS		THE BRAVE
6	Unveiled	18	Despite
	WHITECROSS		CHATTERBOX
7	Michael Sweet	19	Imagine This
	MICHAEL SWEET		IMAGINE THIS
8	You	20	Starflyer 59
	THE KRY		STARFLYER 59
9	Struggle		
	SIX FEET DEEP		
10	Bow		
	FOCUSED		
11	Vanishing Lessons		
	TOURNIQUET		
12	Stone		
	SOMETIME SUNDAY		

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 IL; New Life, Lynchburg VA; Living Word,
 Corona CA; and Shepherd Shoppe, San Antonio
 TX. **HM**

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* **WANTED:** Christian Female Rockers for correspondence. My name is Jerry. I'm 28 years old, blond hair, 5' 8", Hazel eyes, 145 lbs. Seeking Christian Rocker 20-30 for Friendship or possible relationship. Some interests are: Electric Guitar, Christian Rock and Metal, Church, going to Concerts and Motor Sporting events, riding high performance dirt bikes, etc. Please write to: Jerry Hiebert, 6404 N. E. 72nd Ave, Vancouver, WA 98661..

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* There are a few Back Issues of HM available. They are: #20 (Sacred Warrior); #29 (Jet Circus); #31 (X-Sinner); #32 (Crucified); #33 (Holy Soldier); #34 (Lanny Cordola); #35 (Novella); #36 (REZ); #37 (Tourniquet); #40 (Guardian); #41 (Mortification); #42 (Believer); #43 (Tamplin); #44 (Magdalen); #45 (Barren Cross); #46 (Michael Sweet); #47 (Living Sacrifice); #48 (Bride); and #49 (Tourniquet). All others are sold out. Each copy is \$2.95 (Canadian/Foreign orders add \$3 per copy for Air Mail postage).

* We've still got a few of the black silk-screened hats at \$5 each.

* We also carry three of Truth Clothing's hottest hat designs with the HM logo embroidered on the back. These go for \$16 (plus \$1 postage/\$3 Canada & \$5 foreign).

* We're closing out the Heaven's Metal "WORSHIP AT FULL VOLUME" Dogtags. They're \$3 each while supplies last (plus 50 cents postage/foreign \$1).

* Heaven's Metal Posters are still available from some issues at \$1 each: Holy Soldier; Believer; King's X; Mad At The World; Tourniquet; Tim Bushong; Ray Parris (B&W); and Zion (B&W).

* **HEAVEN'S METAL "WORSHIP AT FULL VOLUME" BUTTONS** are \$1.00 (plus 50 cents postage) each (Canada/Foreign add \$1 postage). They come in red, orange, pink, blue and green.

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* Heaven's Metal Watches rock. (A deluxe fashion watch with the HM logo and a genuine leather strap) for \$29.95 (plus \$1 postage).

* Each subscriber to Heaven's Metal has two Prayer Partners. We take the names directly above and below yours on the master subscription list, who have been designated to pray for you and vice-versa. Write in if you'd like their names and addresses.

* If you'd be willing to make copies of a Heaven's Metal flyer to post around your town, write in for a master copy.

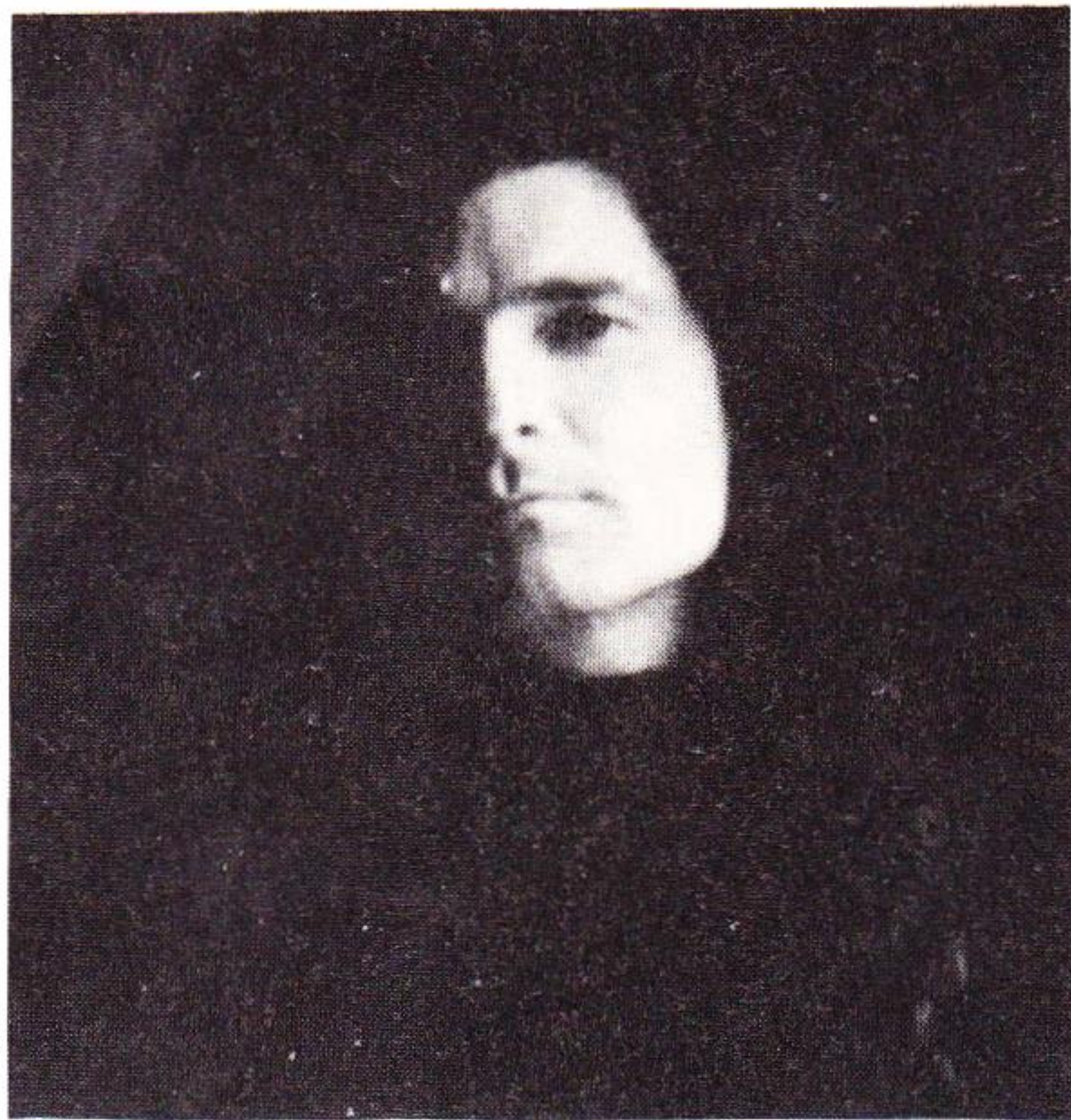
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The Sons Of Issachar: Knowing What Israel Should Do, Part IV

Knowing what Israel should do translates for us today into the necessity of knowing Scriptures as the Divine Blueprint for what we are to believe and do as members of Christ's Church, the Spiritual Israel (Galatians 3:6-9, 26-29; Ephesians 2:11-22; 3:6; Romans 2:28-29; etc.) This involves knowing what Scripture teaches, Its Content, knowledge of which prepares the Christian "for every good work" (2 Timothy 3:16-17), which includes the good work of obedience to Christ's Call to a musical or artistic ministry.

As we saw last issue, doctrine (a belief or teaching about something the Bible says) and theology (which means "knowledge of [or about] God") are important. Theology is comprised largely of an orderly arrangement of interlocking doctrines. Christians, for as long as the Church has existed, have been engaged in an effort to organize the body of Biblical doctrines into a coherent and consistent system of thought. The results of these efforts are called, unsurprisingly, systematic theology, and it would behoove all Christian artists to be familiar with theologies of systematic arrangement. (I recommend for beginners H. Berkhoff's A Summary of Christian Doctrine, and, for the more adventuresome, John Frame's The Doctrine of the Knowledge of God.)

The great value of systematic theology (besides the fact that it renders doctrines more comprehensible, and thus easier to grasp and remember) is that it

attempts to present doctrines in a balanced relationship one to another. This is very important to the Christian artist, especially to the songwriter, because it helps to keep him from taking a Biblical doctrine out of context, and presenting through his song an unbalanced and distorted view of that aspect of the Faith.

For instance, Jesus' Command to "Judge not, lest ye be judged" (Matthew 7:1) has frequently been represented in songs as meaning that we should never exercise judgment toward another person at all. This is a distortion that takes no notice whatsoever of the fact that Jesus elsewhere commands us to "judge with righteous judgement" rather than according to mere appearance (John 7:24), and that St. Paul teaches that, though we do not judge infidels, we must judge those within the Church (1 Corinthians 5:3-6:7). (This particular distortion is especially popular with televangelists and other prominent Christian leaders who are discovered in sins of sex or mammon, and who don't want to be held accountable for it.) It's also not unusual to hear songs dedicated to promoting a Gospel of "Belief" alone, without any reference to those pesky and embarrassing Commands to repent (Matthew 3:2; Luke 13:3; Acts 3:19; 17:30; etc.).

These are not inconsiderable points of difference, even taking into account the inherent restrictions on content that exist of necessity in short songs (a subject to be addressed later in this series). The only hope that men have in the world is to be learned in God's Word, and any distortion of Its presentation inevitably results in increased confusion and despair for those who are seeking to learn truth from It. It is also true that God does not take kindly to those who misrepresent His Word (Deuteronomy 4:2; 12:32; Proverbs 30:6; Revelation 22:18-19). Doctrinal distortions of this type would be greatly lessened if Christian songwriters would become familiar with the balanced presentation of doctrine contained in most systematic theology.

Doctrine is to affect content (we are, of course, not to promote any content in our art that contradicts Holy Scripture in any way) in our art in a variety of ways: The doctrine of Creation demands that Man be shown as God's creature and, thus, as accountable to Him, finding no satisfaction outside

of Him; and that men are made in God's Image, thus having worth, and not to be murdered or treated inhumanly; and that God made matter as good, and that matter is used by God to reveal Himself, with the whole world as His arena of revelation. The doctrine of the Trinity shows that, as God is both One and Three simultaneously, our societies are to reflect the value of both the individual (the One) and men as a gathered many (the Three), and that checks and balances (political and otherwise) are desirable to achieve and continue that balance. The doctrine of the Incarnation also shows us that the created world (which Christ entered as Man) is good, and that normal (unsinful) human activity is a vehicle for spiritual reality and holiness. All of these doctrines (and many, many others) have important implications for the life of both Church and World. We must let these doctrines, in their proper balance, inform all our art with their Truth. To fail at this is to have failed in the task of the Christian artist, and to being reduced to offering stones as bread, and serpents as fish (Matthew 7:9-11).

To know what Israel is to do, we must know the Bible well, and systematic theology is one of the best tools we have available to accomplish this. HM

You can receive Kemper's newsletter and/or order *Vigil*/Arkangel/Radiohalo product by writing to: PO Box 840501, Houston TX 77284-0501.

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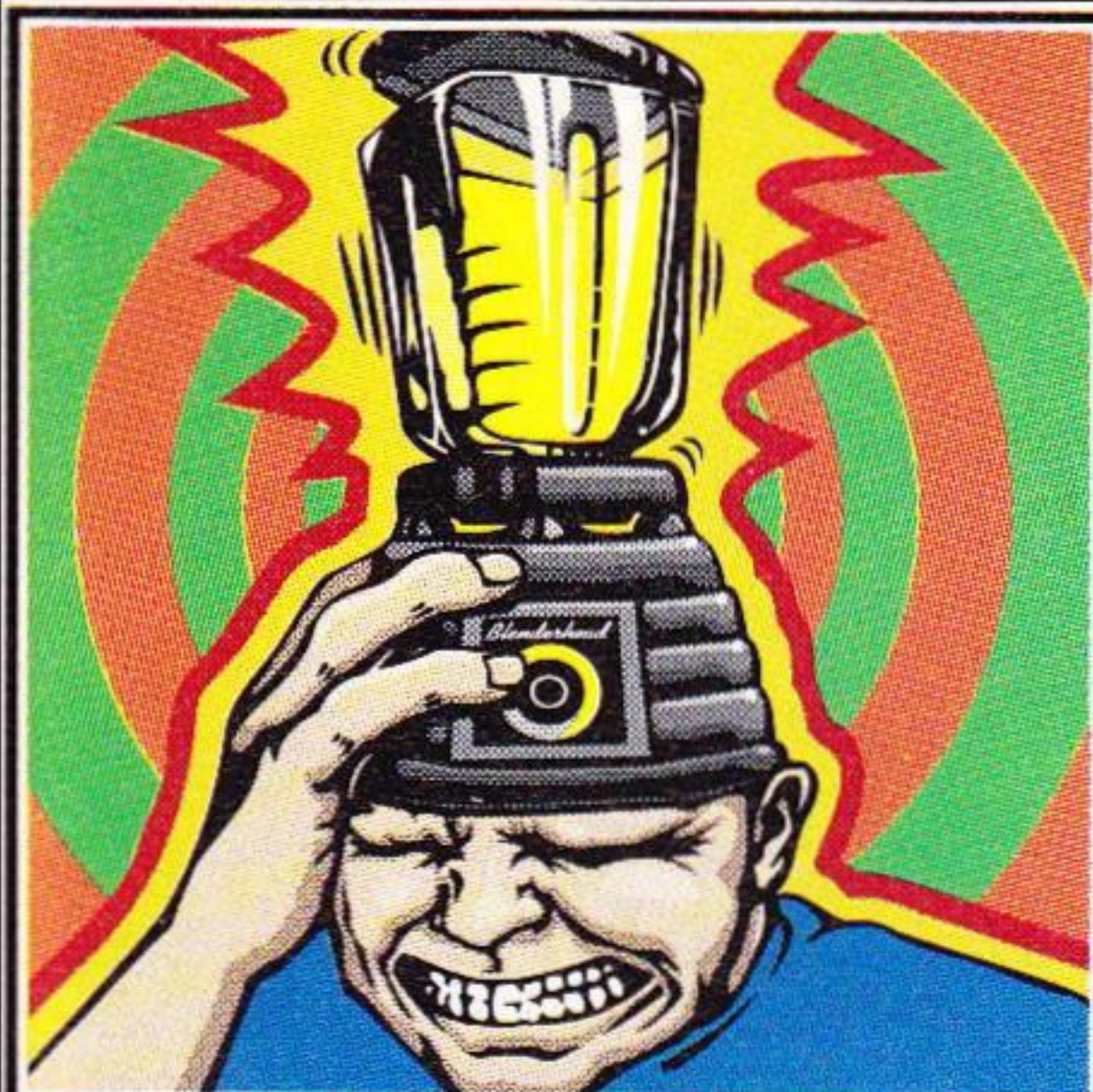
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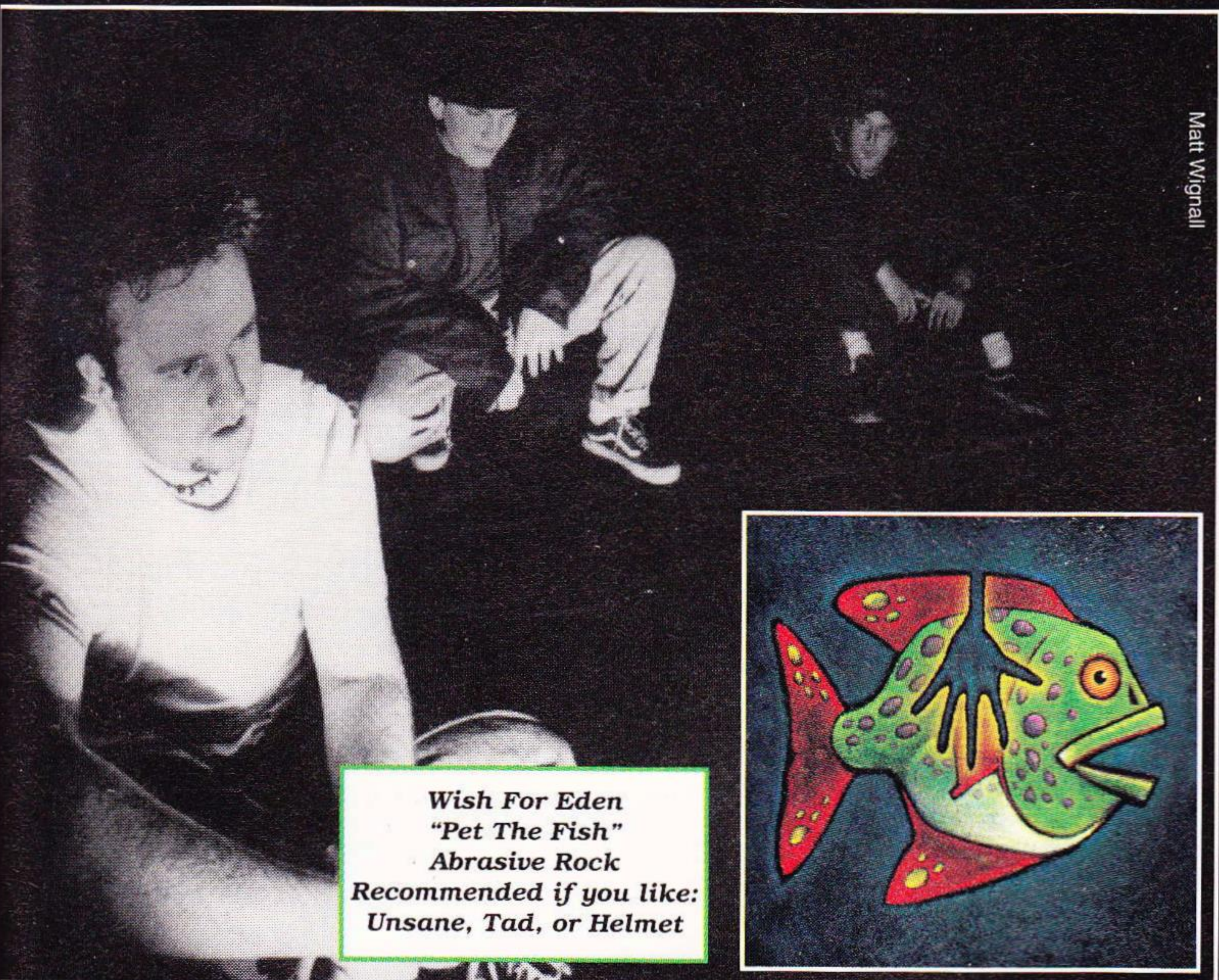
Karen Mason



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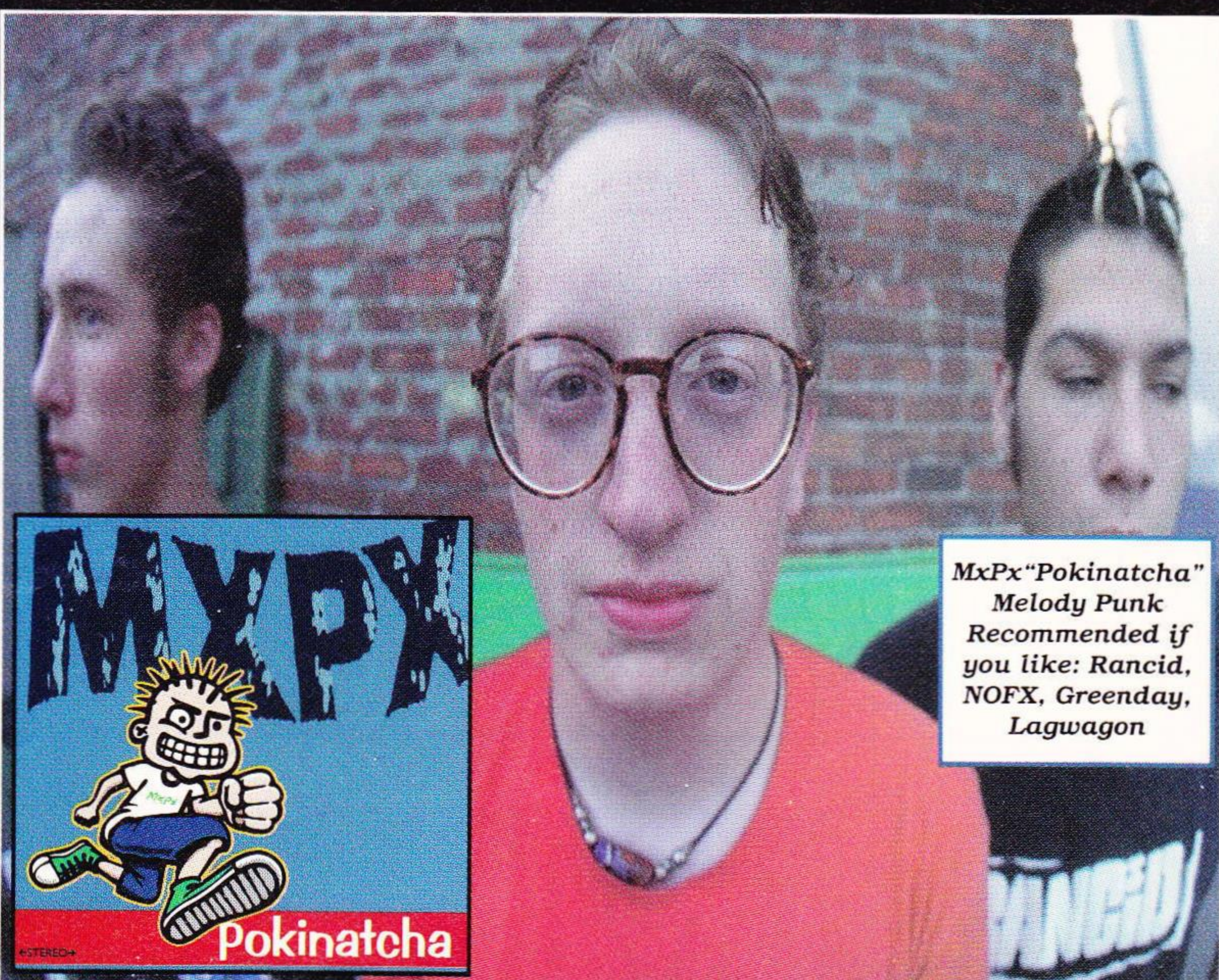
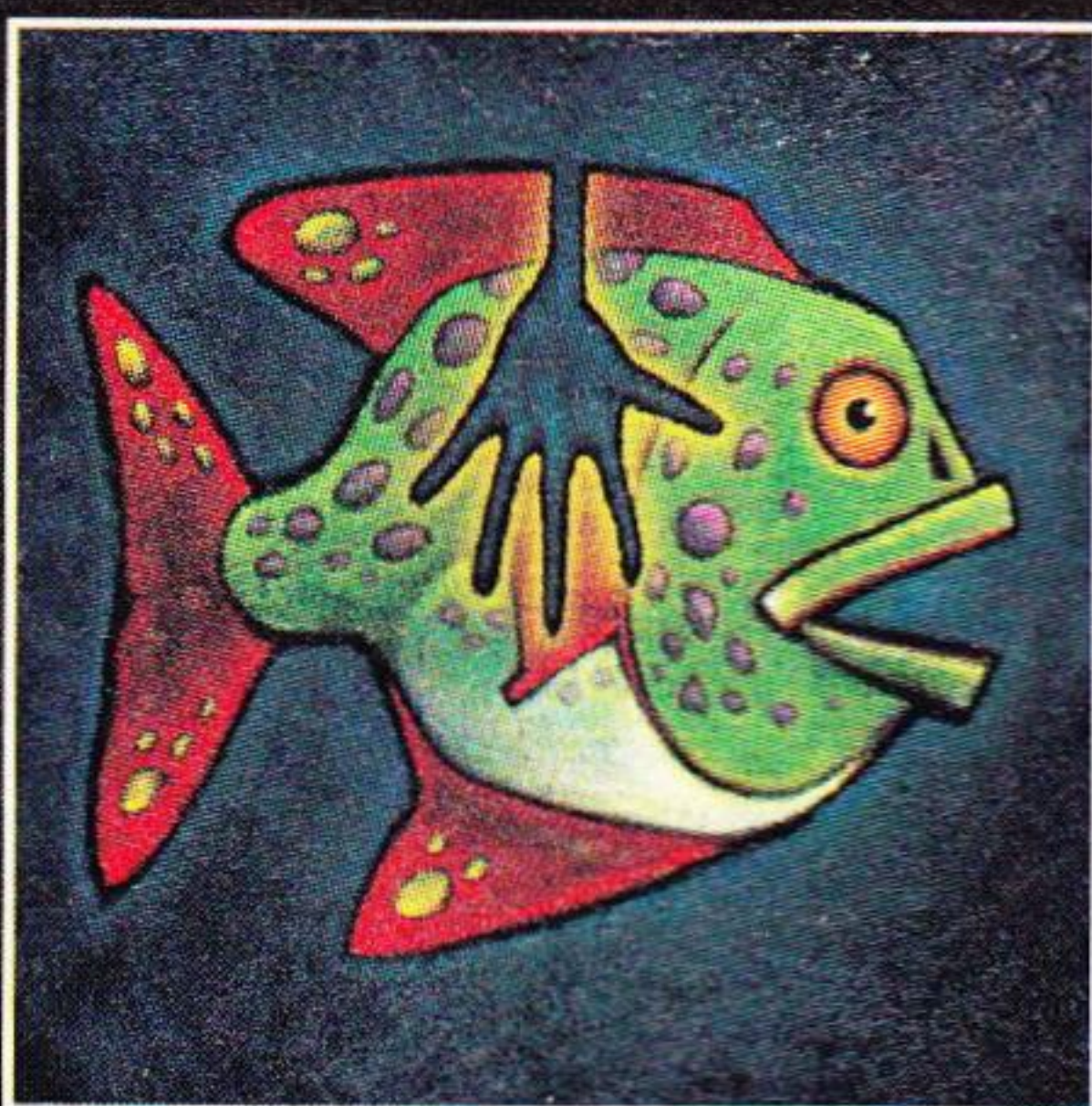


Star Flyer 59
British Pop
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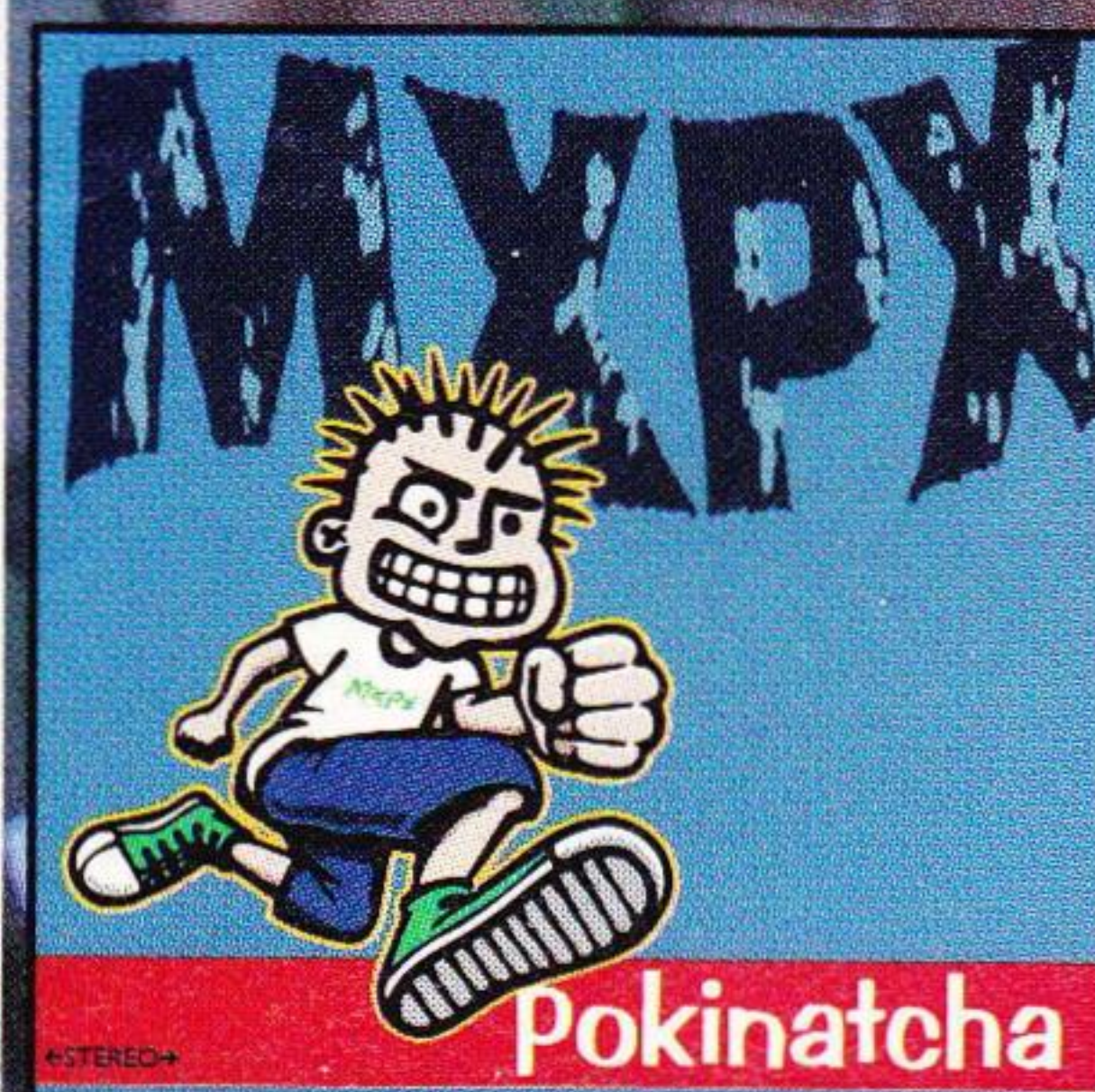


Matt Wignall

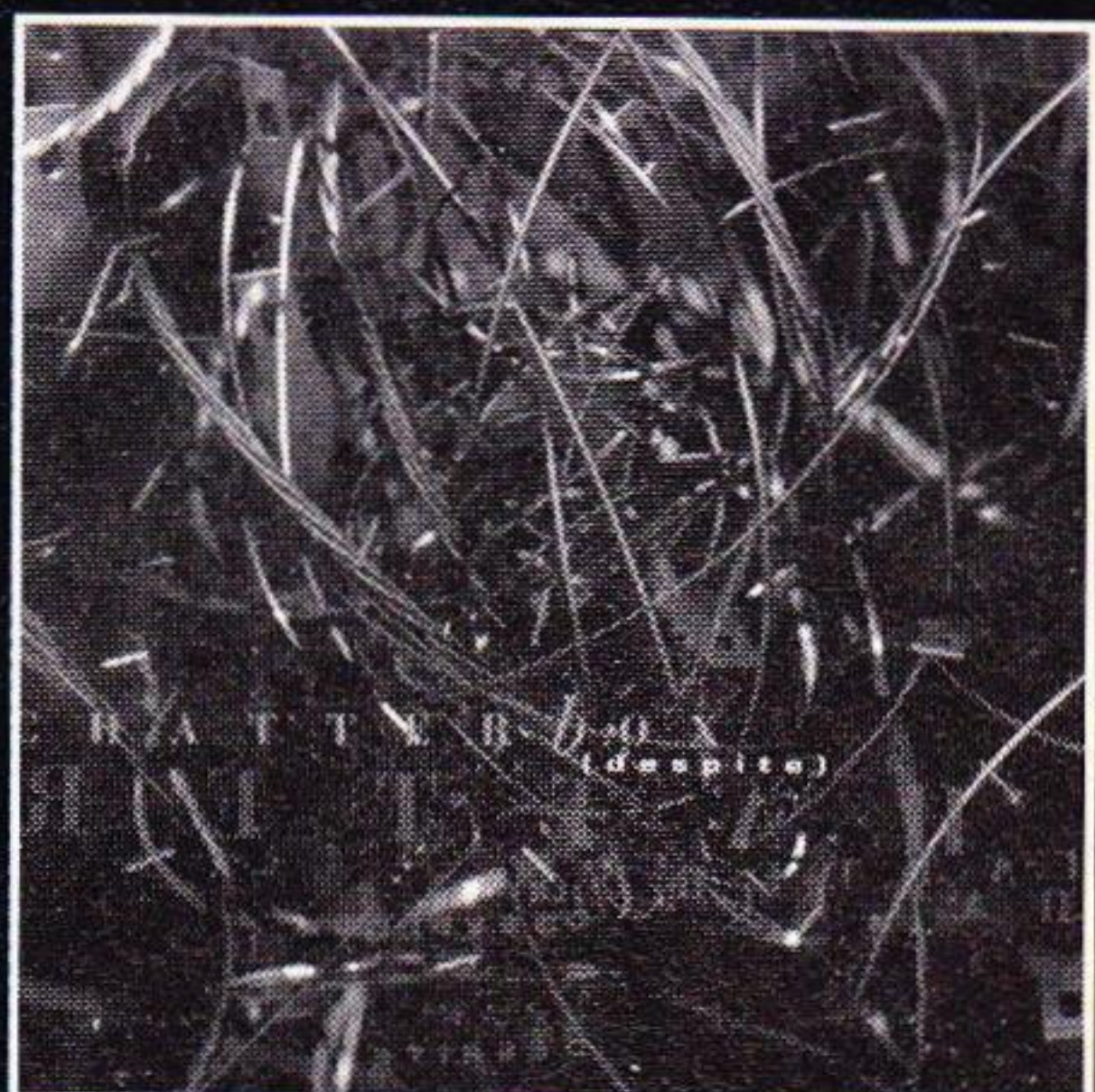
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Abrasive Rock
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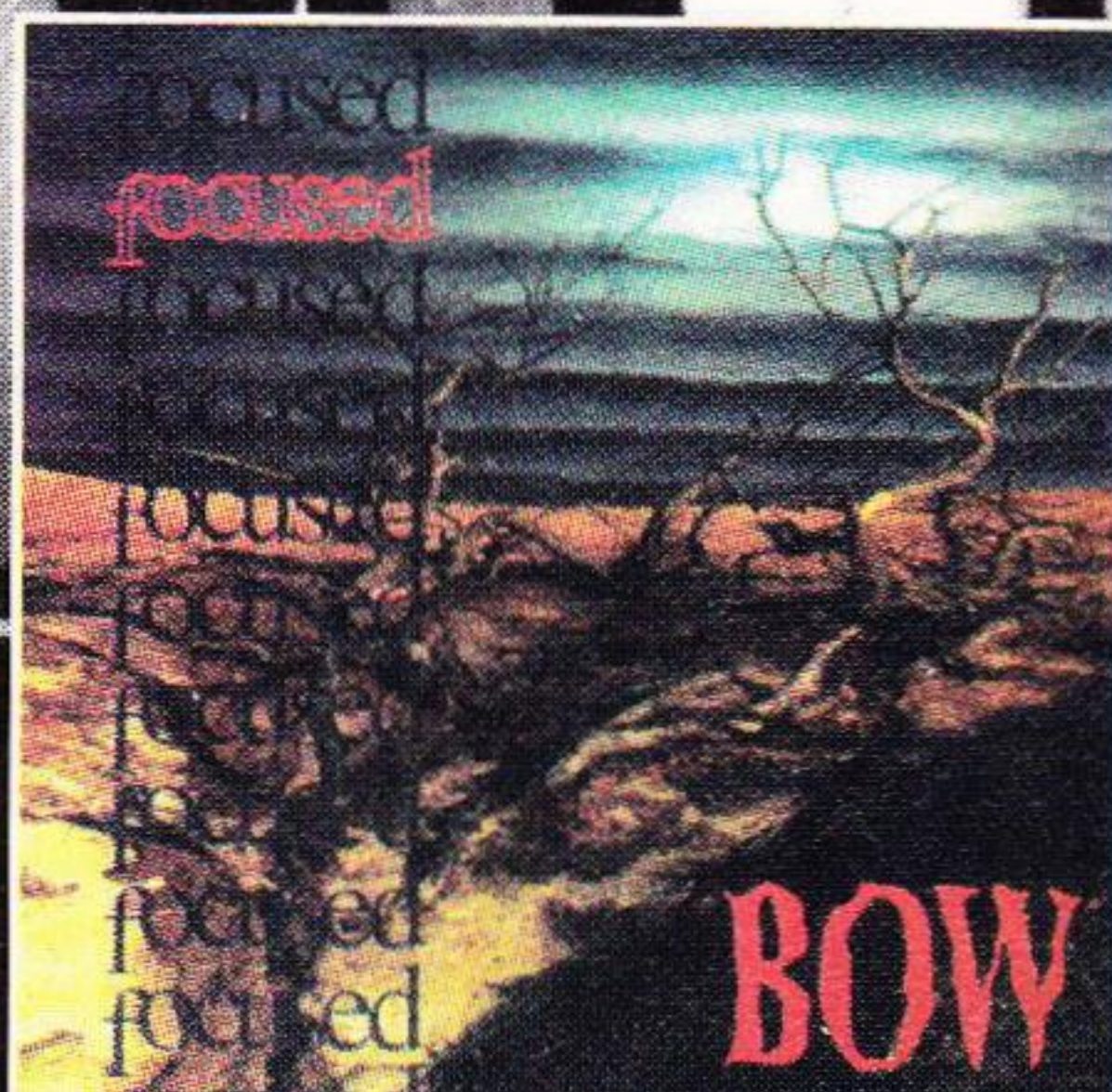
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Licks & Tricks

by Jeff Scheetz

This time we will continue looking at our chord scales. Since we are starting to get up pretty high on the neck and the chords get a little tight up there, we can just split the scale at CM7 and incorporate our root 5 chords. Remember, you can play these chords in ANY position, it's not the position that is important, it's the chord quality.



ROOT 6

3	1	x		2	x
		3	4		

I

ROOT 5

5	2	x	3	—	3

II

ROOT 5

7	2	x	3	—	3

III

ROOT 5

3	x	1	—	1	
			2		
			3	4	

IV

ROOT 5

5	x	1	—	1	
			3	4	

V

ROOT 5

7	x	1	—	1	
			3		2

VI

ROOT 5

9	x	1	2		x
			3	4	

VII

We also refer to chords by Roman numerals: I, II, III, IV, V, VI, VII. (You will sometimes see the Roman numerals written out with the Major chords in uppercase and the minor chords in lowercase: I, ii, iii, IV, V, vi, vii.) This is where the terminology of "Play a 1, 4, 5 progression in the key of G," comes from. They are simply telling you to play the I, IV, and V chord from your G Major chord scale. If you were asked to play a II, V, I in the key of G, you would play your II chord (Am7), your V chord (D7), and your I chord (GM7). If you then wanted to move this to the key of C, you would use your II, V, and I chords from the C Major chord scale (Dm7, G7, CM7). By identifying the chords as numbers, it makes it a lot easier to change keys.

PLAY THESE PROGRESSIONS IN THE PROPER KEY

CHORDS	KEY OF
II, V, I	G
I, IV, V	C
II, V, I, IV	A
III, II, V	Bb
I, VI, II, V	D

This lesson is an excerpt from Jeff's new book & CD series -- The Jeff Scheetz Guitar Method. For more information write: Bam-Zoom! PO Box 481171, Kansas City, MO 64148.

HM

Undercover cont'd:

EARLIER THIS YEAR. WHAT AFFECT DID HER DEATH HAVE ON YOU?

"I was with her when she died, and she died of cancer -- and was too young, of course, 57. It was a nasty way to die; there's no glossing that over. At the same time, it's an incredibly spiritual experience. But I was in her hospital room the day she died, and it's very easy to look at someone's body lying there, and say, 'This is just a body; this is a machine that's breaking down.' And I had a doubt at that moment. You know -- 'Is this all there is? Where is God in this?' It was fleeting, and it was just for that one day, really, that I'm looking and thinking, 'Where is she? She's not in there.' And, up until that point, I had taken comfort in encouraging her that her suffering would soon be over; that soon she'd be in glory. It was always so hard for her to see when there was so much suffering. And, ironically, at the moment when she really did cross over to the other side, she was there, yet it was I who had the doubt.

"Since then, I've reconciled all that. I know that she's there and I know that life is short, and soon enough I'll join her at some level. But, it was a very significant experience. She died in June, which was right when we were finishing the record. So, some of the lyrics were fiddled around, and in some cases rewritten altogether. But, if I had anything to say, it would be this: 'You only do have one mother, one father -- it sure would be nice that whatever business you have with them, you could settle.' Which I was fortunate enough to do."

ALYRICLINEFROMTHETITLECUTREADS, "IT'S ONLY HOW YOU THINK THAT MATTERS." COULD YOU EXPAND ON THAT?

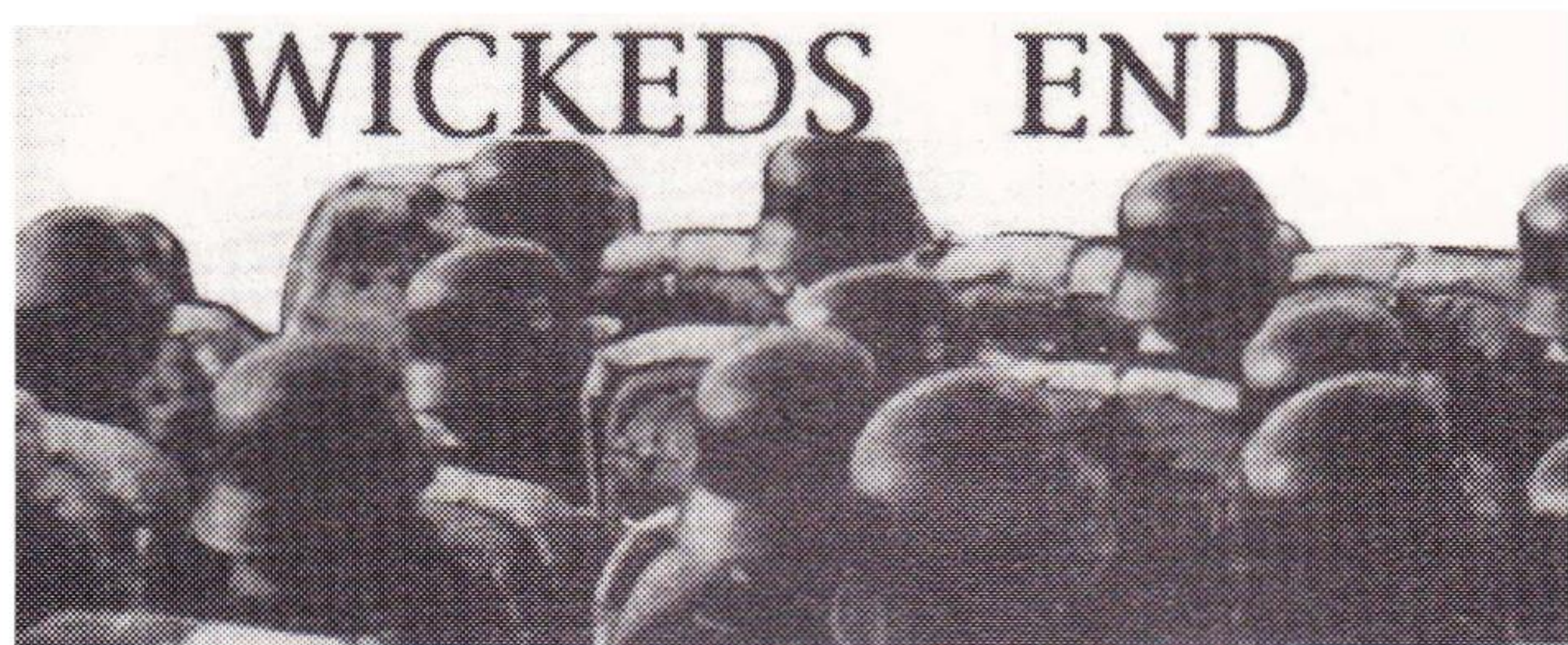
"All of your life's influences affect your perception of reality. And that's really what I mean by 'It's only how you think that matters.' It's not what's real that matters; it's what you think is real. Paul is very clear when he says, 'Be transformed by the renewing of your mind,' which I included on the liner notes. You can be changed simply by renewing your mind. I'm not trying to get into a new age thing here, but you can relate it back to 'Symbol.' Let's look at the Catholics. Up until a certain point in time, women had to wear veils on their heads when they went to church. So, the Catholic church one day changes that: 'You don't have to do that anymore.' Well, you can't get people who internalized this over so many years -- literally their whole lives -- to wake up one morning and say, 'Oh, okay.' It's how you think about it -- the meaning you attach to something, that matters.

"When you go to counseling, what are you doing? You're tweaking your thinking. These are all adjusting your thinking process. So really, you can live in any condition, as long as your thinking is healthy and pragmatic. Can I use that word? I guess so."

YOU STATED THAT YOUR LAST ALBUM, *Devotion*, WAS A "RECOVERY ALBUM." WITH THAT IN MIND, HOW DO YOU VIEW *Forum*?

"I view it as a new start. I think *Devotion* closed that whole chapter with the personal issues going on during *Branded* and *Balance of Power*. And with the personnel changes since *Devotion*, and a few new sounds musically on *Forum*, it really is a new start for Undercover."

HM

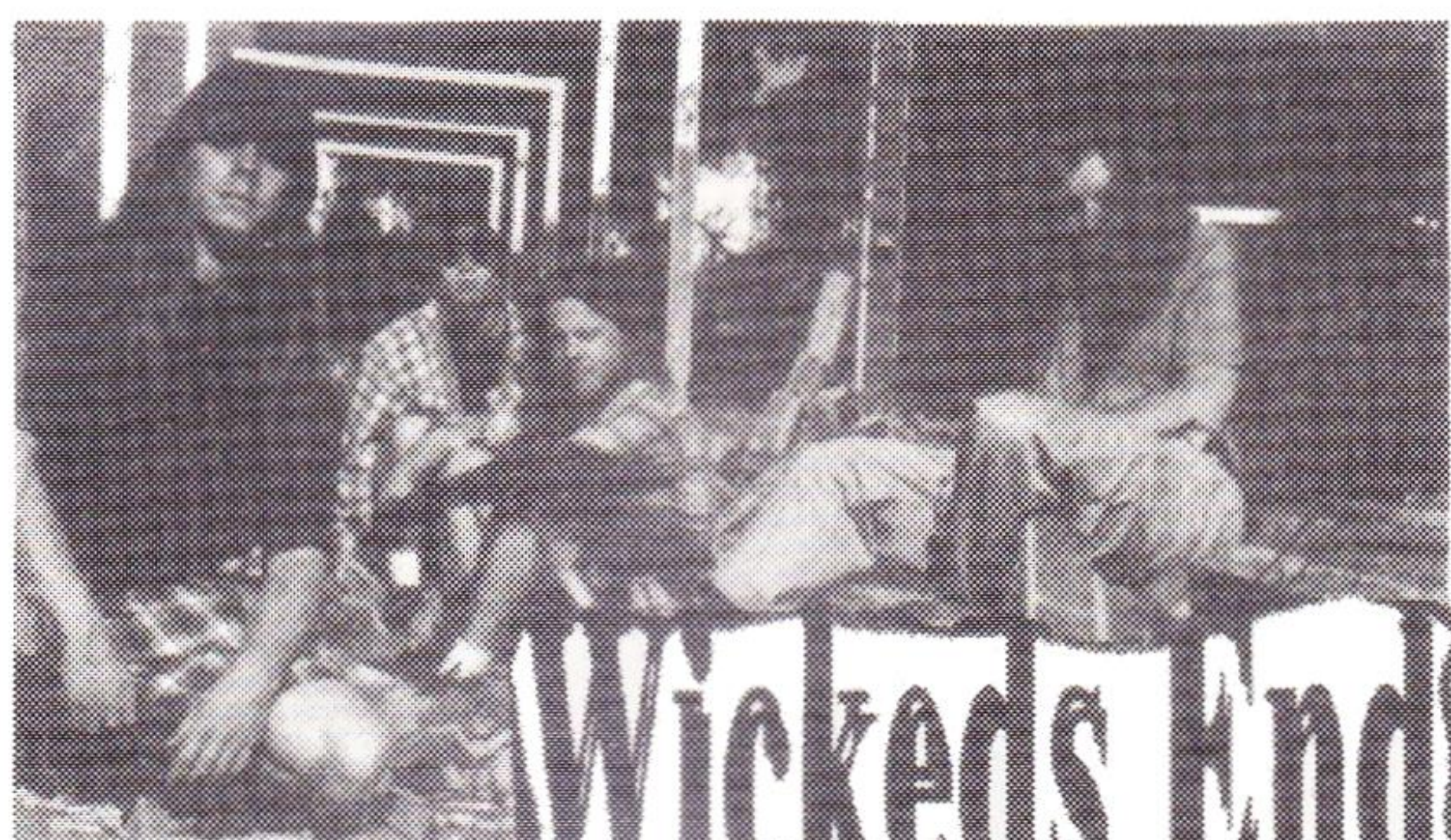


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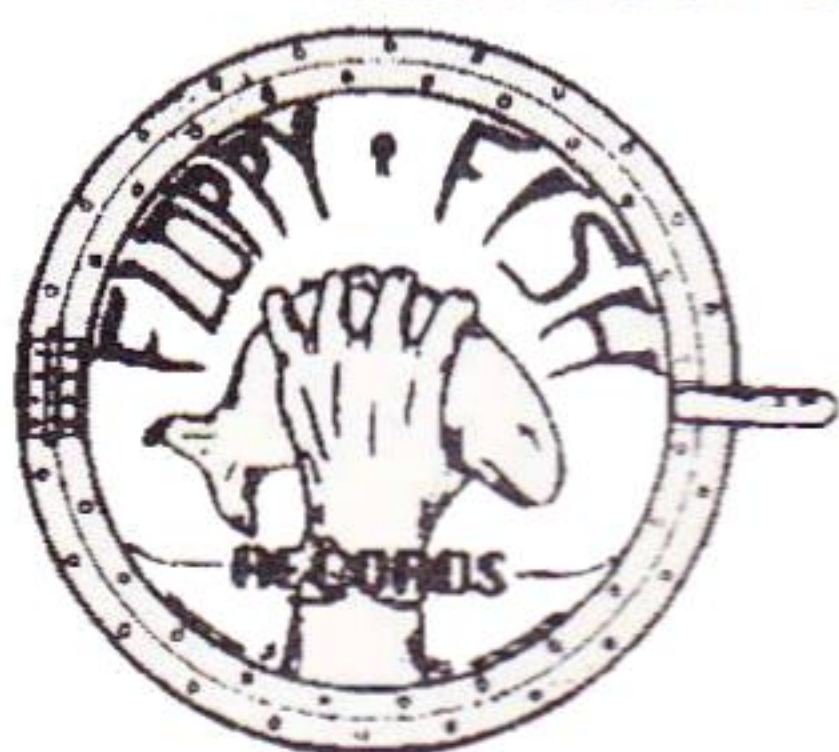
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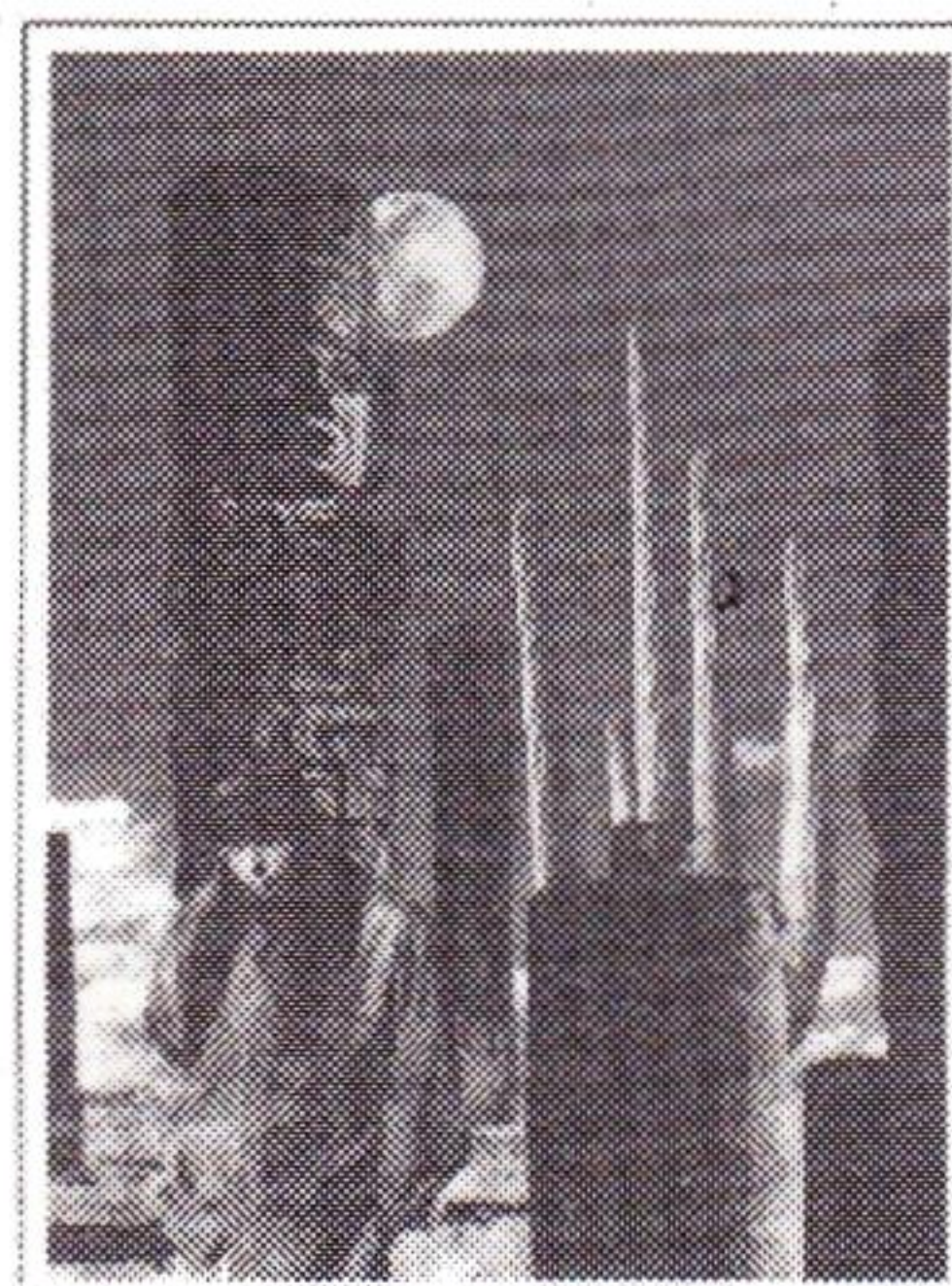
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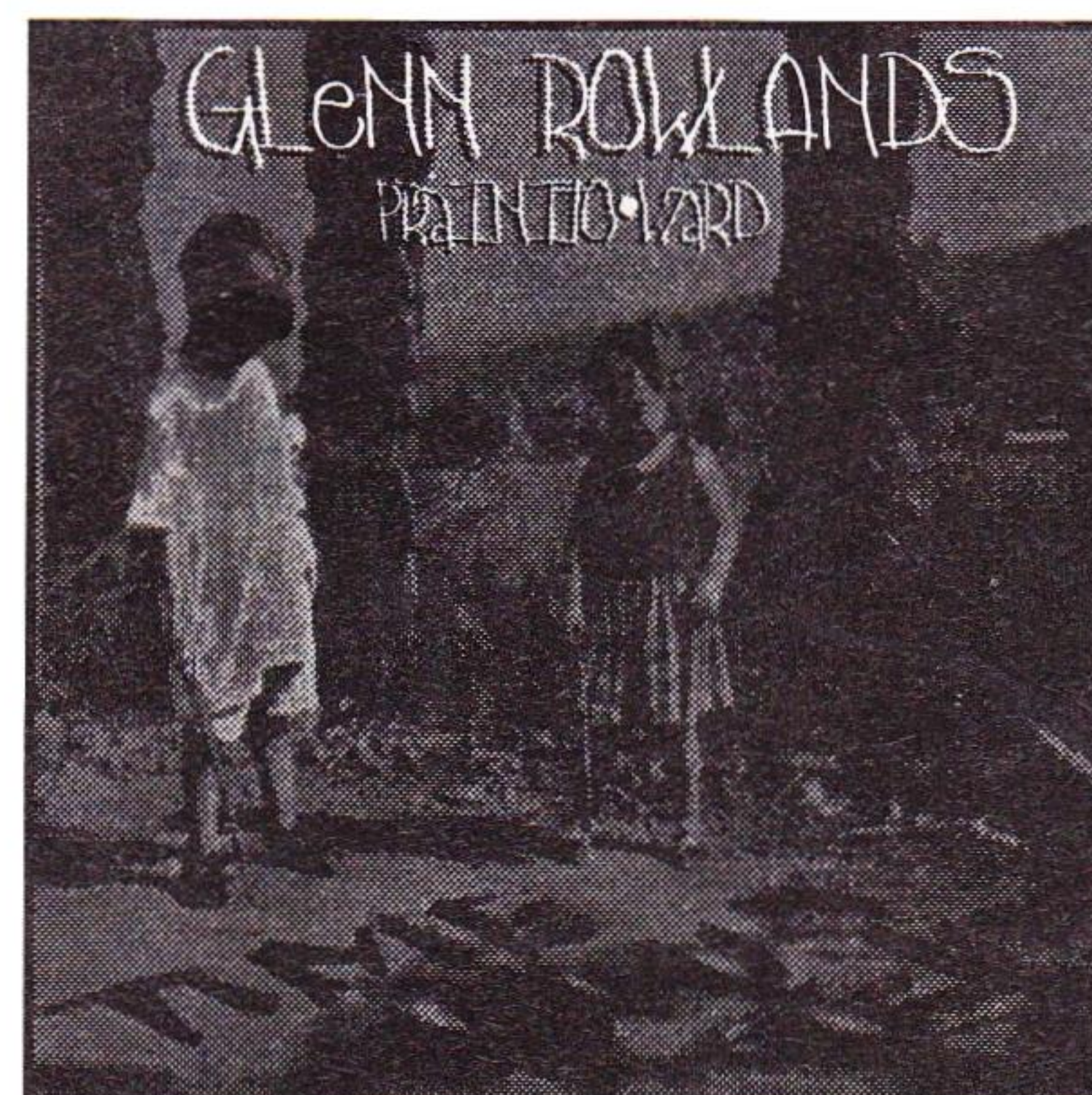
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Ask Glenn...



Usually this column is called "Ask Wendi," but we knew when it started that there would be times that Glenn would pinch-hit for his wife, Wendi, if the demands on her schedule got to be too much or Glenn had something burning in his heart. So, the baton (or pencil) is handed to husband Glenn to run with. The following is a reprint from a personal column that Glenn does for JPUSA's *Cornerstone* magazine.

I had a great chat with a brother tonight. He's young, thoughtful, and, like most of us, just a shade neurotic. We discussed art, philosophy, and spiritual growth. A lot of the talk was about how our freedom is often restricted because of clear biblical statements. I suppose I felt my age when I challenged him to spend more time in prayer and Bible study, rather than being overly concerned about fashion and the latest compact discs by the newest,

hottest groups.

It's clear that art, fashion, and entertainment are a part of life, and they aren't always bad and unholy. But, when one considers the vast amount of time/money/thought/discussion spent on all of these things, eventually questions arise with regard to the meanings, values derived, and ultimate effect they have on us.

Could it be that we're lost in the comics section when we're surrounded by Encyclopedia Britannica's?

I recently re-read an interview *Cornerstone* did with Josh McDowell quite a few years ago. He made a profound statement comparing the 60's with the 80's. He said he found it difficult to talk about any true "revival" going on in the youth culture of the 80's, because commitment wasn't in vogue. In the 60's it was the "thing" to be committed.

It's my opinion that, currently, commitment is a 50/50 proposition. It's half cool and half uncool. Maybe that's why so many people are lukewarm. Mix political and social activism with apathetic party-time and you're okay.

Well, one: hell ain't a party. Two: talk-talk and going to the odd rally for you namethecause is cheap. Meanwhile, as all youth culture does, said "youth" (I wish somebody would come up with a better word -- I'd really like to can that one) are out searching the planet for some sort of meaning. Or at least the "buzz" that they're on the right track.

Who leads us? "Artistes." The entertainer with a conscience. They establish the fashions, fan the fires of imagination, set the captives free. To do what? And while we're on the subject, since when must we be motivated by unbelievers to do precisely what Jesus commanded us to do?

Mmmm. Ever consider living vicariously through somebody else, dreaming for the sake of dreaming with no real intent of responsible (look out -- here comes the "B" word) biblical action? Yo, we're too busy out "finding ourselves." C.S. Lewis once commented that some people never find anything, because they're in love with the search. I don't know if my young friend caught my meaning, but I think I understand his situation and his need.

In the 60's, I needed a love that mercifully, firmly tossed me off of my pseudo-intellectual-artsy-lazy Tower of Babel. Came a time I wasn't confused. I was rebellious and working hard at being accepted by the rest of my fellow wheel-spinners. No wonder we never did anything of eternal consequence. God lived in the shadows, because the light of His Word forced us to admit we weren't stumbling -- we were positively diving for pleasure, rather than truly seeking Him.

In the end, our talk covered listening to music that didn't build us up spiritually (lyrics), causing ourselves or others to be dull to the philosophy of the Word (I'll take God's philosophy over man's every time!), not being "religious," but praying real prayers, studying the Bible, really edifying our brothers in our conversation, and other boring stuff like that. Style or substance. Door number one or door number two.

"Balance," you say? Now you're . . . talking.

You can write Glenn or Wendi at: Wendi Kaiser, 920 W. Wilson Ave, Dept. W, Chicago IL 60640. 60640.

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The guys shouted, “Hey Jimmy! Did you bag your babe last night?”

Jimmy turned around to find all the guys in the warehouse looking at him for his answer. It was a “guy thing,” and the topic of daily conversation at Jimmy’s work. He felt like he needed to perform sexually to prove his manhood. All the other guys boasted of having very active sex lives. It was part of the daily routine to share all the details. Jimmy didn’t want to sound like a wimp; or, worse yet, like he was a virgin! “Yeah, you know how it is. She wants me bad!”

Jimmy had used all the lines with his girlfriend. “If you love me, you’ll show me,” and “I want to marry you someday . . . it’s just like we’re married now!” If his girlfriend only knew that he was sharing their intimacy with all the other guys, she would be devastated. She believed him when he told her that she was special, and that he had never had anyone he loved more than her. Imagine her pain when she became known as an “easy lay.”

One of my biggest concerns for Christian men today is a lack of respect for women. It is not only a problem in dating, but is the cause of many divorces. I don’t believe there is another area of attack from the enemy that is more powerful than in this area of relationships. Allow me to share a few principles for your consideration . . .

Dating is the process in which a



man finds his wife. Dating was never intended for recreational purposes. It is important that you realize that you are playing around with someone else’s life when you date. You will most likely affect them emotionally, socially, spiritually, and sexually.

If you really love her, you’ll wait! God didn’t create women to be playthings. He asked us to hold them in high regard with the utmost respect. It is not up to her to “turn you down.” It’s up to you to run from sexual immorality. 1 Corinthians 6:18-20 says: “*Flee from sexual immorality. All other sins a man commits are outside his body, but he who sins sexually sins against his own body. Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, Who is in you, Whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore, honor God with your body.*”

When you have sex with someone that you don’t marry, you are having sex with someone else’s wife! Sex is a gift from God to be shared between two people who have committed themselves to each other for life. When you have sex with someone outside of marriage, you tarnish that very private area that is reserved for marriage. Author Tim Stafford made this comment to women: “*When he touches you in those places, he touches more than skin. He touches a very private part of your soul. When you do, at last, give that part to someone, you don’t want fingerprints all over it.*”

You need to have a godly view of women. Society has reduced women to sexual playthings. A Rhode Island rape

crisis center study of 1,700 teenagers found that 65% of the boys and 37% of the girls in the 7th to 9th grade said that it was acceptable for a man to force a woman to have sex if they’ve been dating for more than six months. No wonder that date rape is now a huge problem on college campuses today! And Christian colleges are no exceptions. Administrators in the top ten universities in the United States estimate that one out of five women in their campuses will be the victim of rape or attempted rape this year. In fact, in a San Francisco study, 35% of the women surveyed had been sexually abused by age 18. Is this what women were created for?

Marriage is the only context in which sexual intimacy is to be shared.

When Christ talks about marriage, He places it in high regard and gives it great importance. He even tells us that our ministry to our wives becomes our first ministry. Listen to Christ’s words in Ephesians 5:25-29: “*Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave Himself up for her to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the Word, and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless. In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. After all, no one ever hated his own body, but he feeds and cares for it, just as Christ does the church.*” When does this ministry begin? Now!

Many of you need to begin the process of getting serious about your relationships. Very few of you who are not married will remain single. It is time right now to begin to prepare yourself for that person that God will bring into your life. I believe that a successful marriage starts many years before you actually meet each other. It begins as God prepares you for each other. That preparation has everything to do with your dedication to holiness and purity. For every guy out there that’s praying for a godly wife, there is a woman praying for a godly husband. Are you that person?

I’d love to hear from you! Write to me at: Pastor Bob’s Column, Sanctuary International, PO Box 23945, Nashville, TN 37202-3945

Need to talk? Call the Sanctuary talk line. We’re open daily between 6 and 10 pm (Central time): (615) 754-6431.

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SAYING, "I DON'T NEED THE CHURCH," IS QUITE AN ARROGANT THING TO SAY. FOR ONE, IT PLACES YOURSELF ABOVE OTHERS WHO ALSO BELIEVE IN CHRIST. ONE OF THE BASIC TEACHINGS OF JESUS IS TO NOT THINK OF YOURSELF AS BEING BETTER THAN OTHERS. "BE HUMBLE, NOT PROUD," IS THE ANSWER TO THAT MISCONCEPTION. SECONDLY, SAYING YOU DON'T NEED THE CHURCH IS LIKE SAYING YOU DON'T NEED YOUR OWN FAMILY. HOW ON EARTH WOULD YOU EVEN EXIST IF IT WEREN'T FOR YOUR FATHER AND MOTHER? IN THE SAME WAY, HOW ON EARTH WOULD YOU HAVE BECOME A CHRISTIAN UNLESS SOMEONE ELSE SHOWED YOU THE WAY? A FELLOW MEMBER OF GOD'S FAMILY HAD TO TELL YOU SOMETHING LIKE, "HEY! GOD IS REAL, AND HE IS PERFECT. YOU ARE HUMAN, AND ANYTHING BUT PERFECT. YOUR IMPERFECTION AND DOWNRIGHT REBELLION CREATES A HOSTILE RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD. YOU MUST DEAL WITH THE PROBLEM OF YOUR REBELLION (SIN) IN ORDER TO HAVE PEACE WITH GOD. GOD REQUIRES A PUNISHMENT FOR YOUR SIN, AND HE CAME TO EARTH IN THE PERSON OF JESUS CHRIST AND TOOK THAT PUNISHMENT FOR US. IF WE ACCEPT AND RECEIVE HIS GIFT, WE ARE FORGIVEN OF OUR SIN AND CAN HAVE PEACE WITH GOD." UNLESS SOMEONE SHOWS US THIS TRUTH, WE WILL NEVER HAVE REAL LIFE AND WE WILL REMAIN IN DEATH -- AND SEPARATED AND AN ENEMY OF GOD. WOULDN'T THE FACT THAT SOMEONE CARED ENOUGH ABOUT US TO SHOW US THIS CAUSE US TO BE GRATEFUL? WE SHOULD BE GRATEFUL TO THE CHURCH, NOT RESENTFUL. EVEN THOUGH SOMEONE IN THE CHURCH MAY PROVE THAT THEY ARE STILL HUMAN BY DOING SOMETHING WRONG, THAT DOES NOT GIVE YOU THE RIGHT TO SAY, "I NO LONGER NEED YOU." BECAUSE WE ARE JOINED TOGETHER AS A MEMBER OF GOD'S FAMILY, WE CANNOT OPERATE SEPARATE FROM IT. TO TEAR AT OR ATTACK A PART OF GOD'S FAMILY (THE BODY OF CHRIST) IS TO ATTACK OURSELVES AS WELL. ". . . NOW THERE ARE MANY MEMBERS, BUT ONE BODY. AND THE EYE CANNOT SAY TO THE HAND, 'I HAVE NO NEED OF YOU;' OR AGAIN THE HEAD TO THE FEET, 'I HAVE NO NEED OF YOU.' ON THE CONTRARY, IT IS MUCH TRUER THAT THE MEMBERS OF THE BODY WHICH SEEM TO BE WEAKER ARE NECESSARY; AND THOSE MEMBERS OF THE BODY, WHICH WE DEEM LESS HONORABLE, ON THESE WE BESTOW MORE ABUNDANT HONOR, AND OUR UNSEEMLY MEMBERS COME TO HAVE MORE ABUNDANT SEEMLINESS, WHEREAS OUR SEEMLY MEMBERS HAVE NO NEED OF IT. BUT GOD HAS SO COMPOSED THE BODY, GIVING MORE ABUNDANT HONOR TO THAT MEMBER WHICH LACKED, THAT THERE SHOULD BE NO DIVISION IN THE BODY, BUT THAT THE MEMBERS SHOULD HAVE THE SAME CARE FOR ONE ANOTHER." (1 CORINTHIANS 12:20-25) ONE IMPORTANT THING TO REMEMBER IS THAT, JUST AS YOU NEED THE CHURCH, THE CHURCH NEEDS YOU. AND THE REASON WHY YOU'RE NOT IN HEAVEN RIGHT NOW IS THAT THE WORLD NEEDS THE CHURCH.